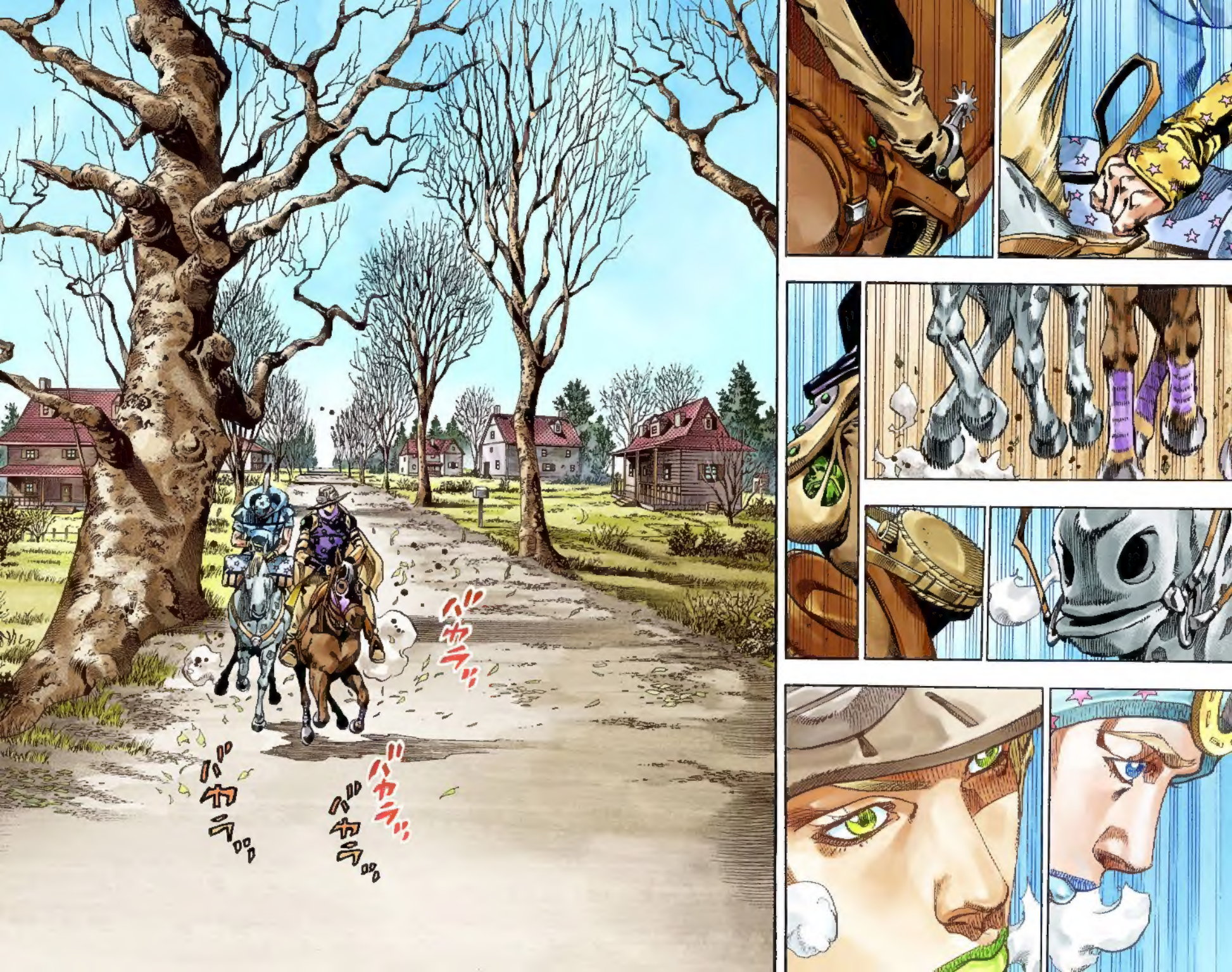
STEEL BALL RUN
スティール・ボール・ラン

#60
BOTH SIDES NOW
PART 1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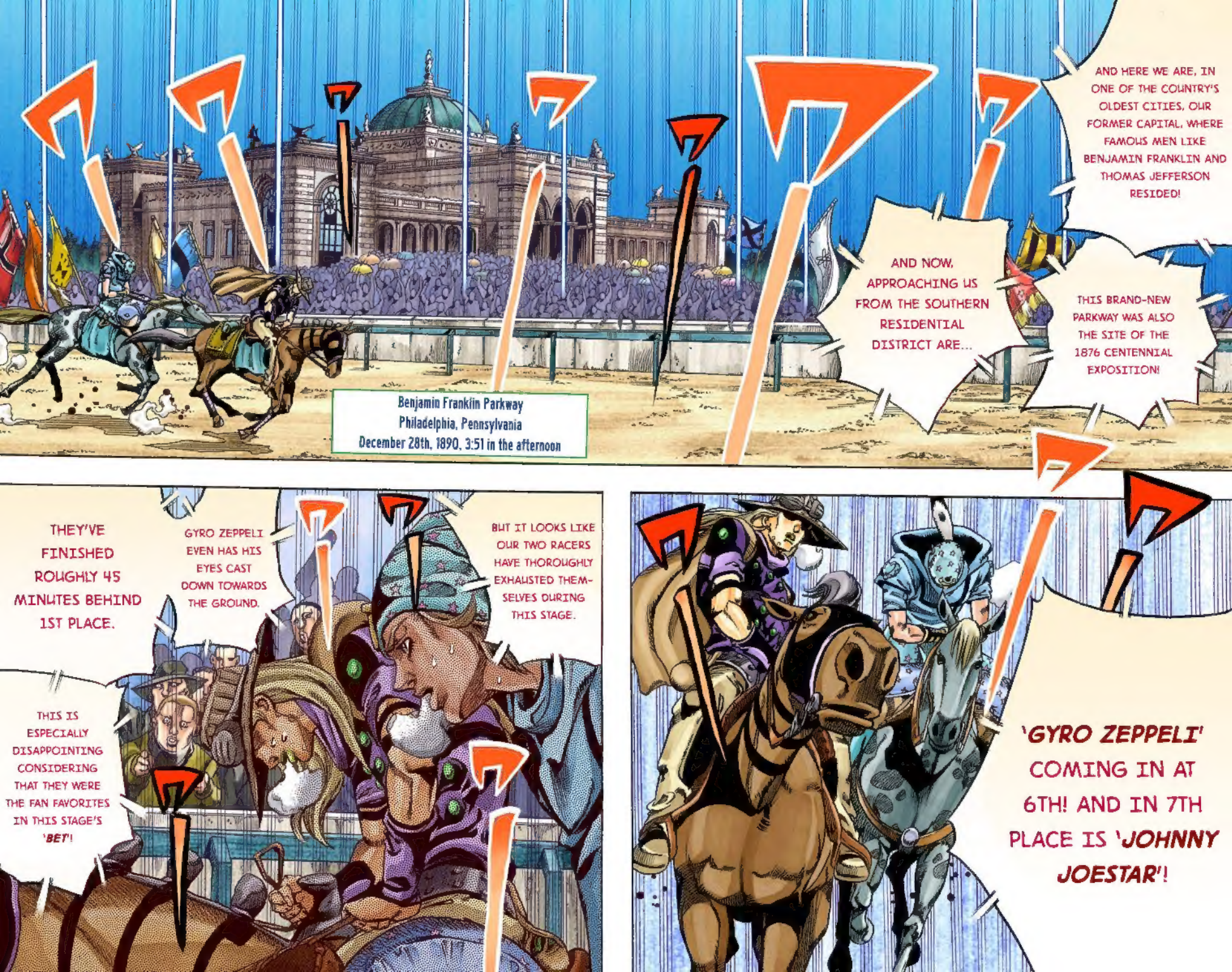
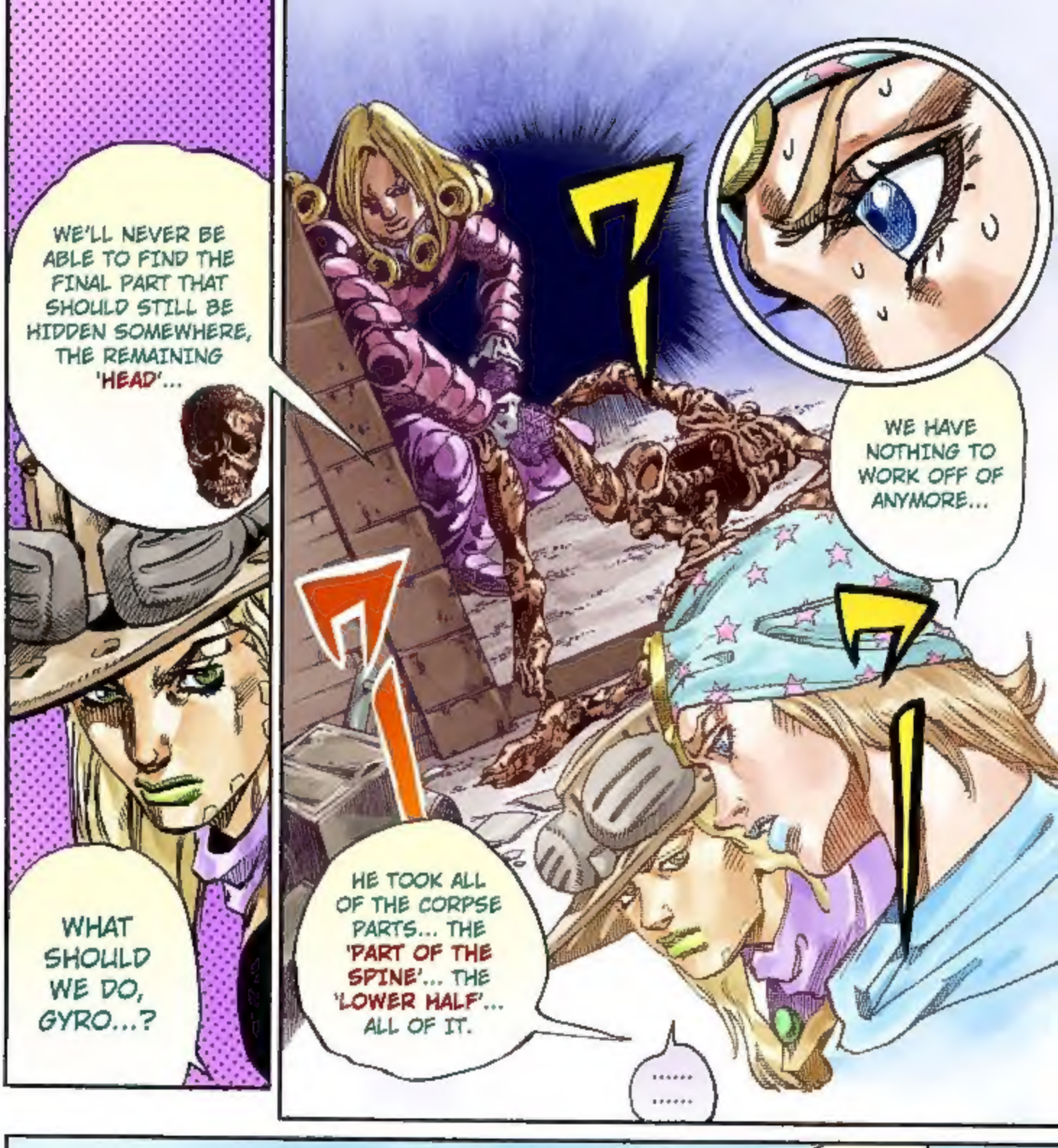
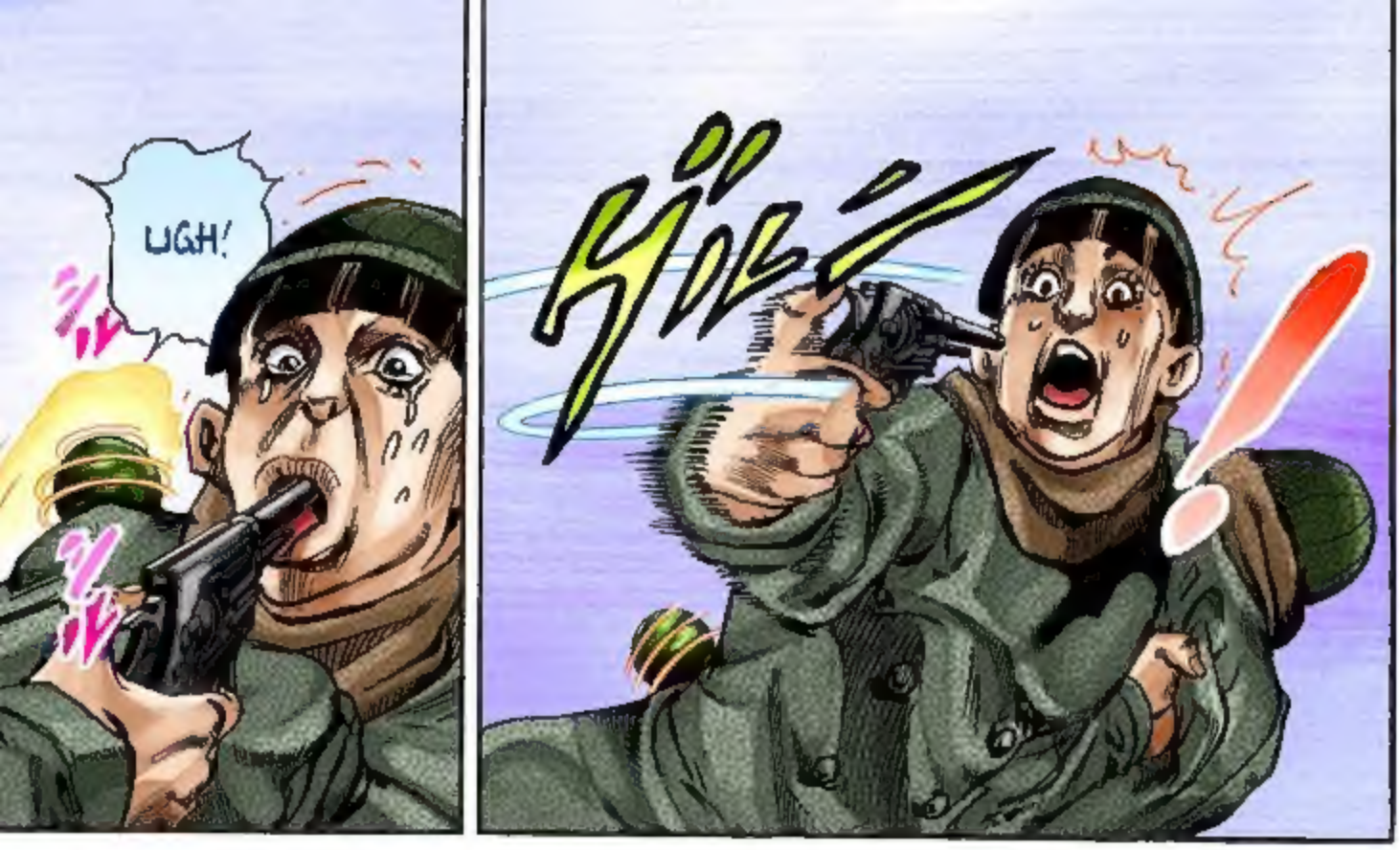

AND HERE WE ARE, IN ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S OLDEST CITIES, OUR FORMER CAPITAL, WHERE FAMOUS MEN LIKE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND THOMAS JEFFERSON RESIDED!
AND NOW, APPROACHING US FROM THE SOUTHERN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT ARE...
THIS BRAND-NEW PARKWAY WAS ALSO THE SITE OF THE 1876 CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION!
Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
December 28th, 1890, 3:51 in the afternoon
THEY'VE FINISHED ROUGHLY 45 MINUTES BEHIND 1ST PLACE.
GYRO ZEPPELI EVEN HAS HIS EYES CAST DOWN TOWARDS THE GROUND.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE OUR TWO RACERS HAVE THOROUGHLY EXHAUSTED THEMSELVES DURING THIS STAGE.
THIS IS ESPECIALLY DISAPPOINTING CONSIDERING THAT THEY WERE THE FAN FAVORITES IN THIS STAGE'S 'BET'!
'GYRO ZEPPELI' COMING IN AT 6TH! AND IN 7TH PLACE IS 'JOHNNY JOESTAR'!


WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND THE FINAL PART THAT SHOULD STILL BE HIDDEN SOMEWHERE, THE REMAINING 'HEAD'...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, GYRO...?
WE HAVE NOTHING TO WORK OFF OF ANYMORE...
HE TOOK ALL OF THE CORPSE PARTS... THE 'PART OF THE SPINE'... THE 'LOWER HALF'... ALL OF IT.
.....
.....

...WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW...?

.....
.....
.....
UGH!

UGAAAH!
!?
!?


UGH!
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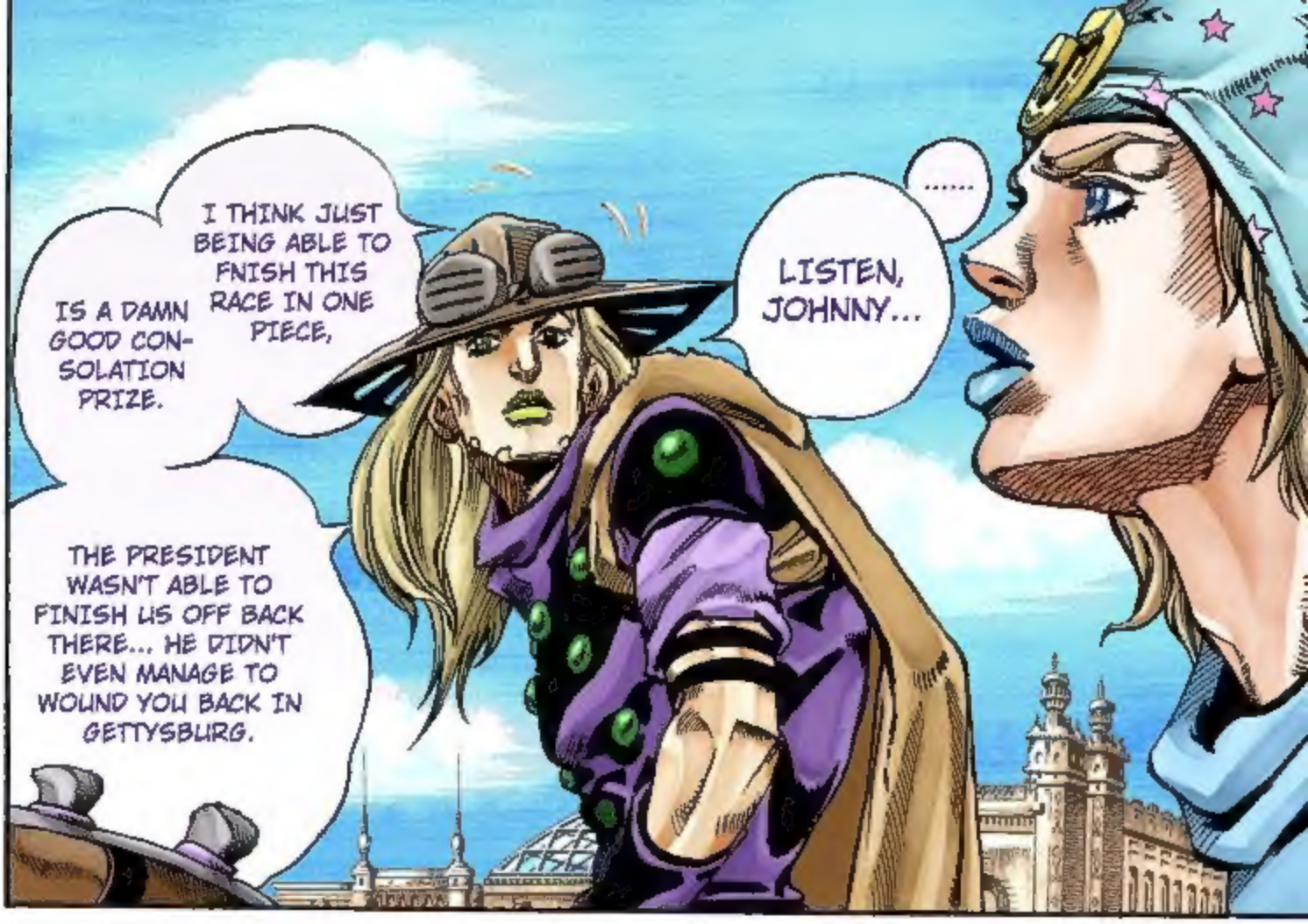
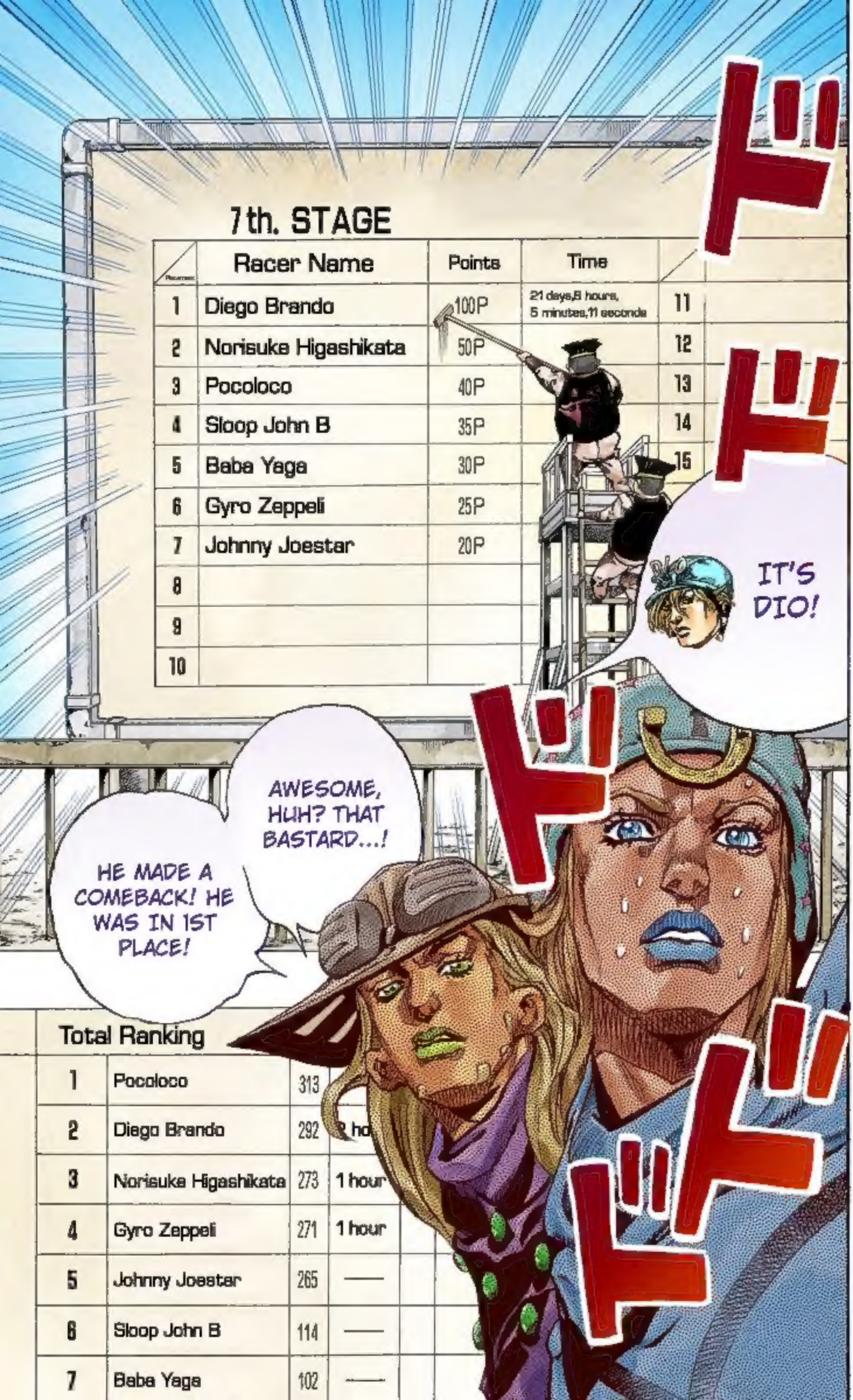
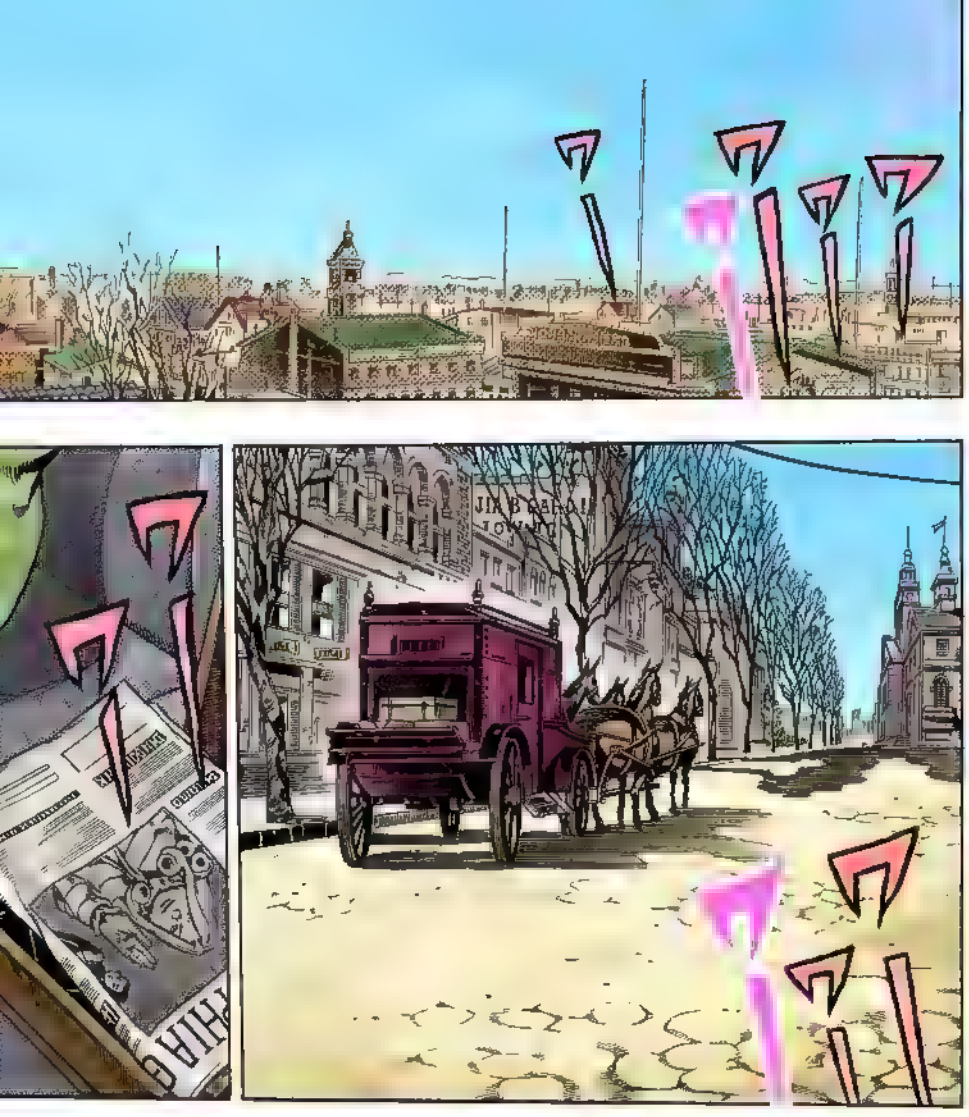
I'M SURE THE PRESIDENT WON'T HESITATE TO HUNT US DOWN. THE ONLY THING HE HAS LEFT TO DO IS DISPOSE OF US.
AND BESIDES, IT SEEMS LIKE THE ONLY REASON WE WERE GATHERED HERE IN THIS RACE ACROSS THE CONTINENT WAS TO SEEK OUT THE 'CORPSE PARTS'...


I THINK JUST BEING ABLE TO FNISH THIS RACE IN ONE PIECE,
IS A DAMN GOOD CON-SOLATION PRIZE.
THE PRESIDENT WASN'T ABLE TO FINISH US OFF BACK THERE... HE DIDN'T EVEN MANAGE TO WOUND YOU BACK IN GETTYSBURG.
LISTEN, JOHNNY...
.....

IT LOOKS LIKE LUCK IS ON OUR SIDE... TAKE A LOOK AT THE RANKING CHART.
LOOK.
THAT'S WHAT I CALL BEING GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE. WE HAVEN'T BEEN FORSAKEN JUST YET.

Placement	Racer Name
1	Diego Brando
2	Norisuke Higa


7th. STAGE
Racer Name
Points
Time
1 Diego Brando 100P 21 days,8 hours, 5 minutes,11 seconds
2 Norisuke Higashikata 50P
3 Pocoloco 40P
4 Sloop John B 35P
5 Baba Yaga 30P
6 Gyro Zeppeli 25P
7 Johnny Joestar 20P
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
ドドド
IT'S DIO!
ドドド
AWESOME, HUH? THAT BASTARD...!
HE MADE A COMEBACK! HE WAS IN 1ST PLACE!
ドドド
Total Ranking
1 Pocoloco 313
2 Diego Brando 292
3 Norisuke Higashikata 273 1 hour
4 Gyro Zeppeli 271 1 hour
5 Johnny Joestar 265 ——
6 Sloop John B 114 ——
7 Baba Yaga 102 ——

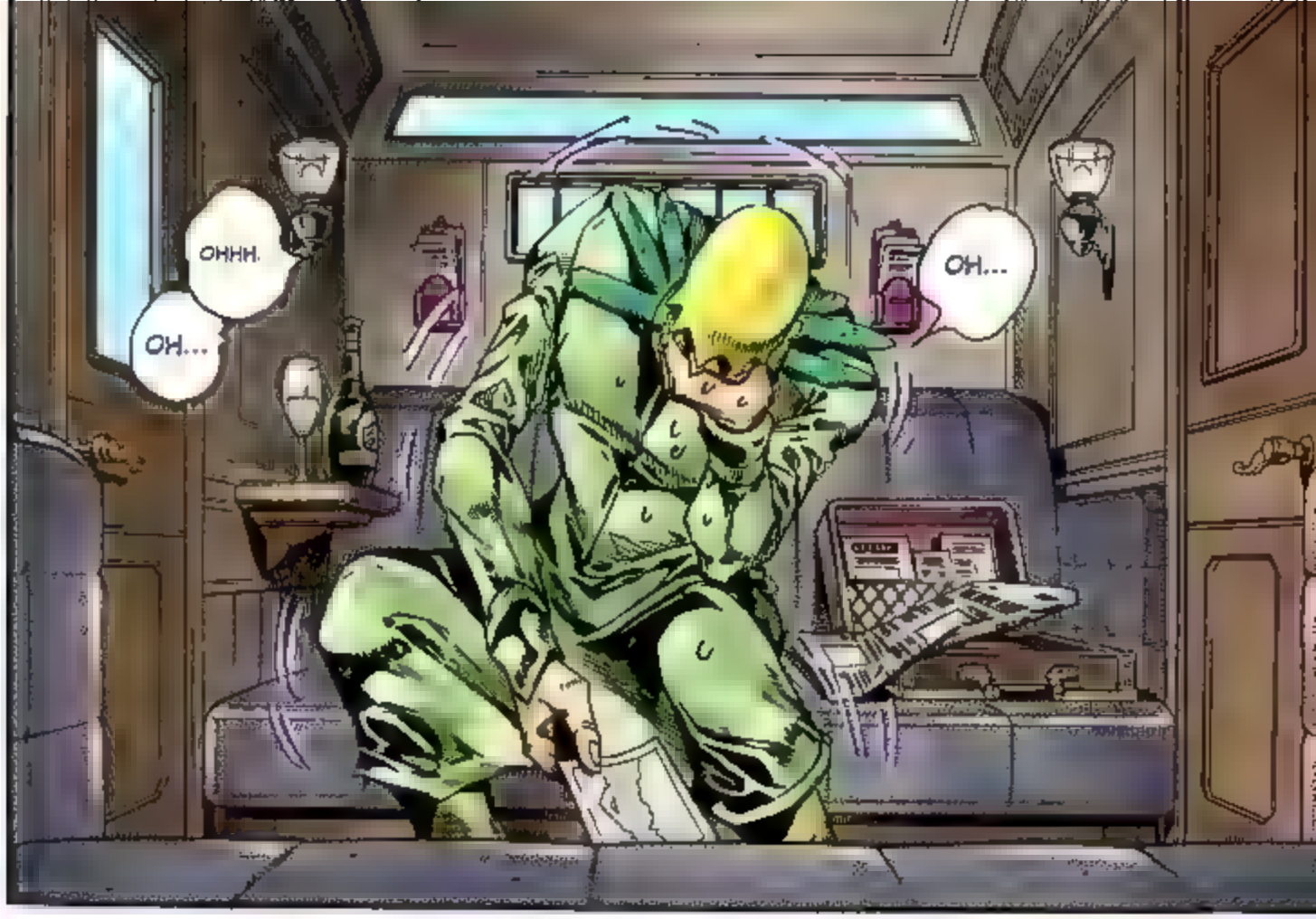

AND THAT MEANS HE STILL HAS THE 'LEFT EYE' WITH HIM.
RIGHT? YOU THINK SO TOO, YEAH?
THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A BREAK-THROUGH.
WE STILL DIDN'T REPAY HIM FOR THAT SHIT WITH SANDMAN, EITHER.
WE'RE GONNA AMBUSH HIM AND TAKE HIS 'LEFT EYE' BY FORCE! THE 'GO SIGN' IS STILL FLASHING!
.....
.....
.....

8th. STAGE

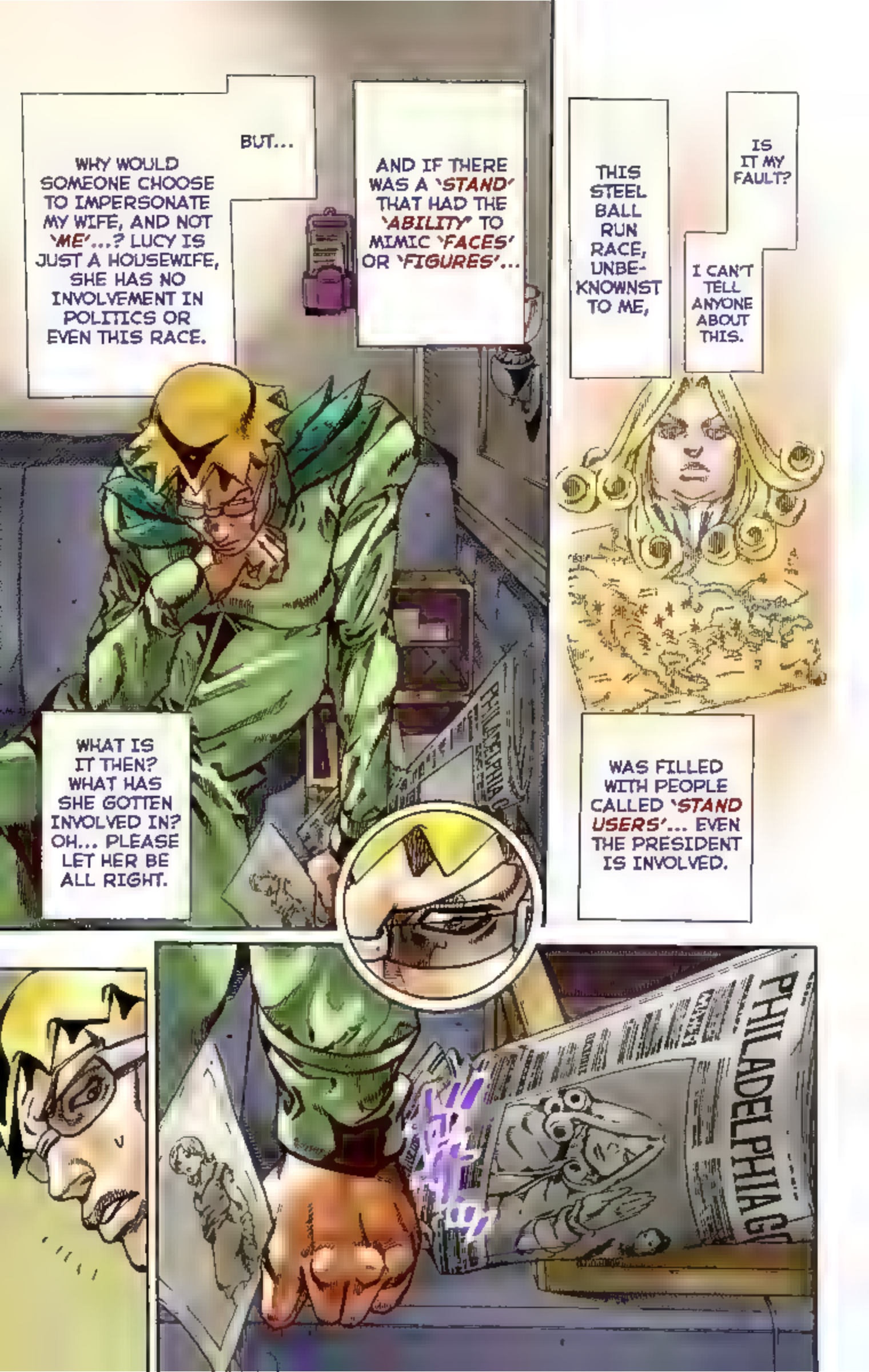
Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) ⟶ New Jersey (New Jersey)
Race distance: About 140km

'BOTH SIDES NOW'

Estimated time: 2 days (Will continue straight to the 9th stage, New York City)
Participants: 52

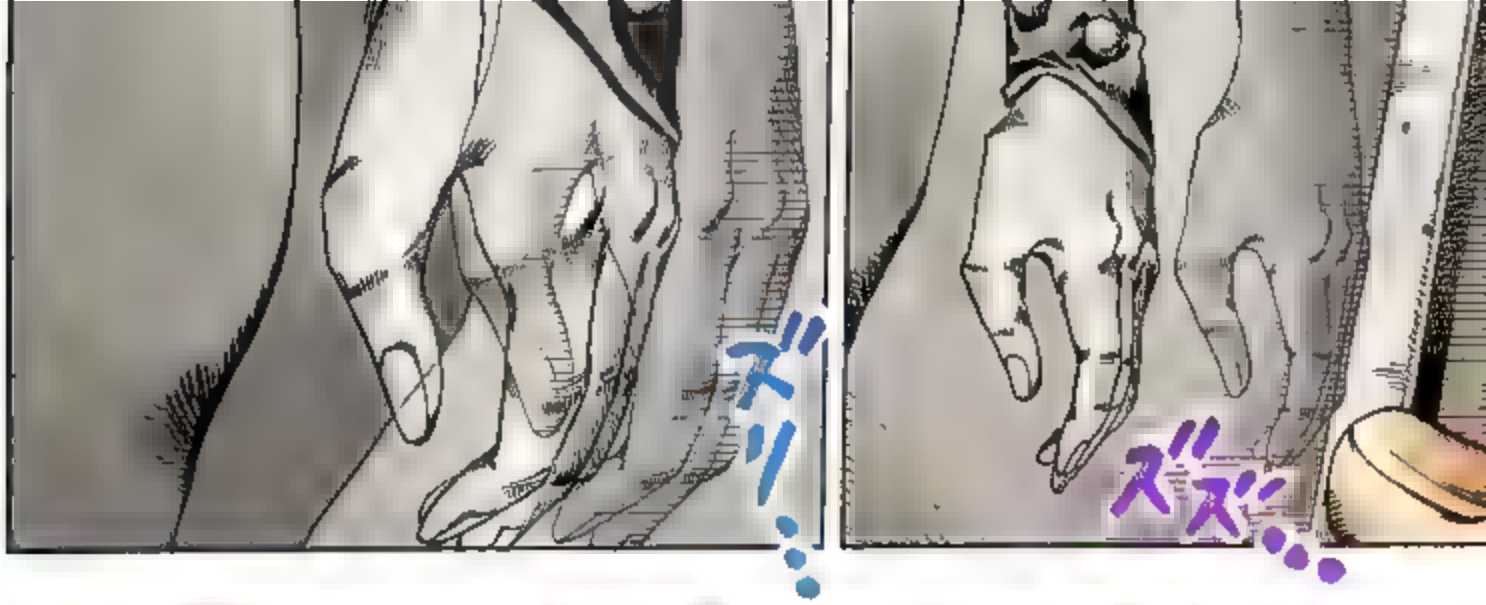

OHHH.
OH...
OH...

I CAN TELL... THERE'S DANGER AFOOT. I BURIED HER AND DECLARED HER DEAD, BUT... THAT WAS A DIFFERENT WOMAN.
BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE REAL LUCY...
OH
THAT WAS 'LUCY'...
THEN WHO IS IT THAT REALLY DIED, AND... WHERE IS MY LUCY NOW?
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, THAT WAS MY BELOVED LUCY...


WHY WOULD SOMEONE CHOOSE TO IMPERSONATE MY WIFE, AND NOT 'ME'...? LUCY IS JUST A HOUSEWIFE, SHE HAS NO INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS OR EVEN THIS RACE.
BUT...
AND IF THERE WAS A 'STAND' THAT HAD THE 'ABILITY' TO MIMIC 'FACES' OR 'FIGURES'...
THIS STEEL BALL RUN RACE, UNBE-KNOWNST TO ME,
IS IT MY FAULT?
I CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.
WHAT IS IT THEN? WHAT HAS SHE GOTTEN INVOLVED IN? OH... PLEASE LET HER BE ALL RIGHT.
WAS FILLED WITH PEOPLE CALLED 'STAND USERS'... EVEN THE PRESIDENT IS INVOLVED.
PHILADELPHIA G

PHILADELPHIA
.. ..
... .
DO YOU LEARN HOW TO 'READ LIPS' IN THE ARMY? LIKE ONE WOULD LEARN HOW TO COOK?
YOU WERE HAVING A BAD DREAM
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU CAN'T SLEEP BECAUSE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE RACE?
I'M GOING TO TAKE A QUICK STROLL BEFORE I COME HOME.

THE LAST PERSON TO SEE LUCY IN CHICAGO WAS...
IT WAS... 'THE FIRST LADY'.
AND AFTER THAT, SHE DROWNED.
RIP
RIP
RIP
RIP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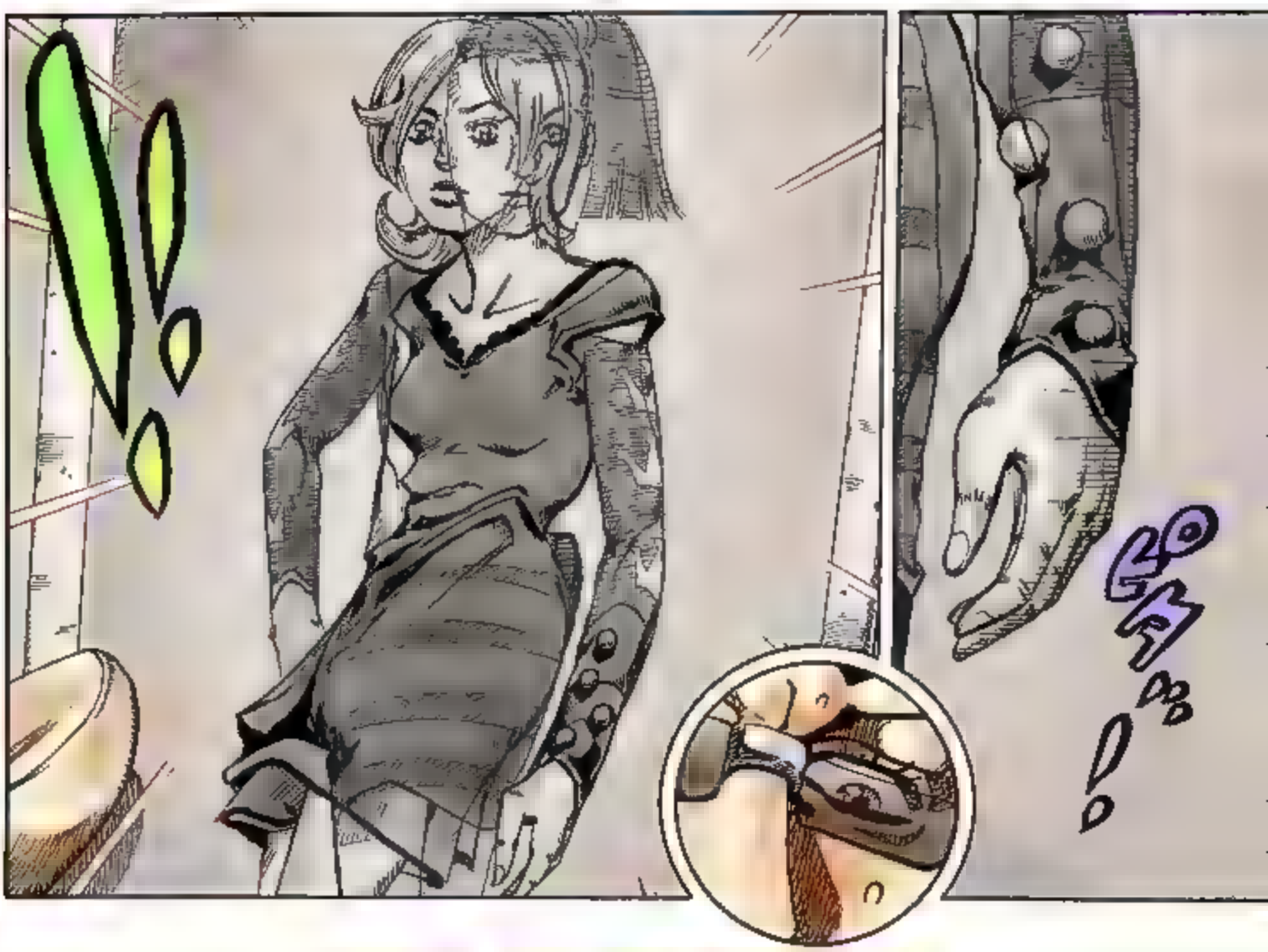
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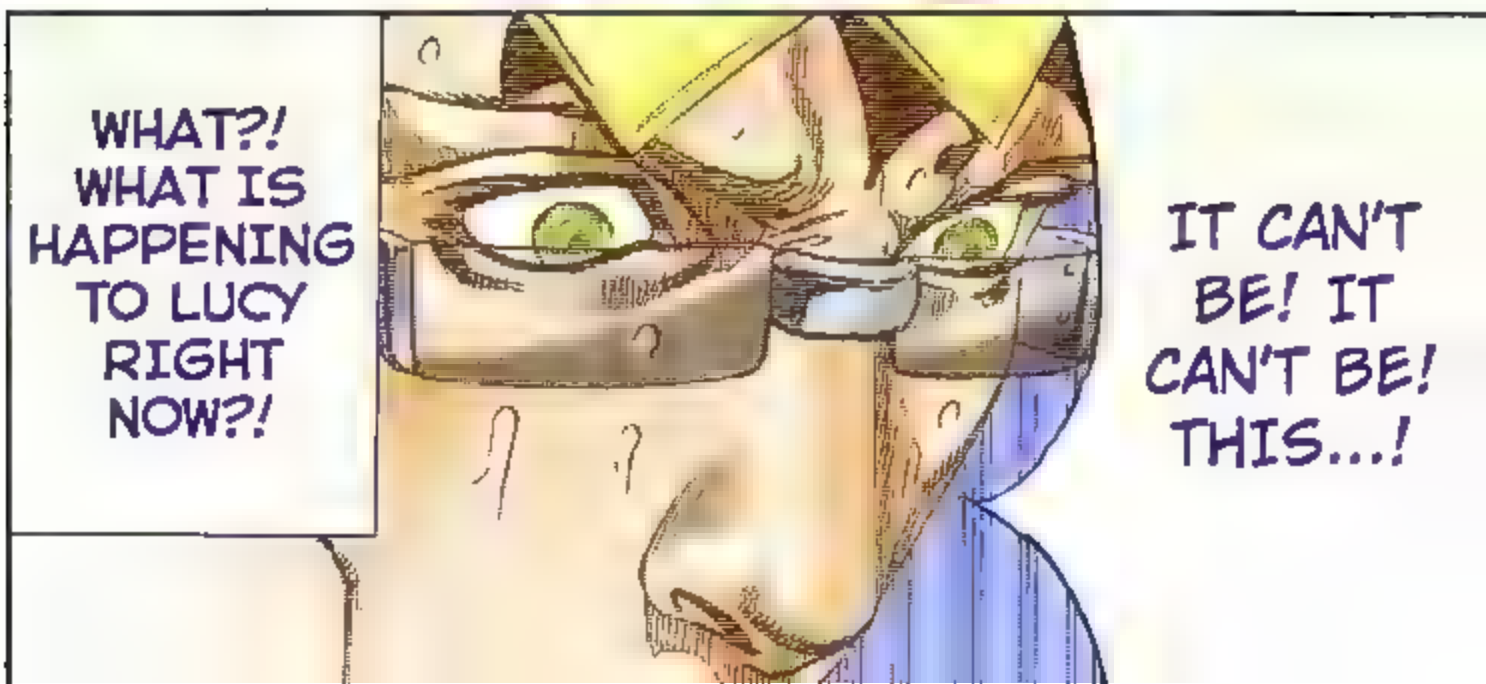
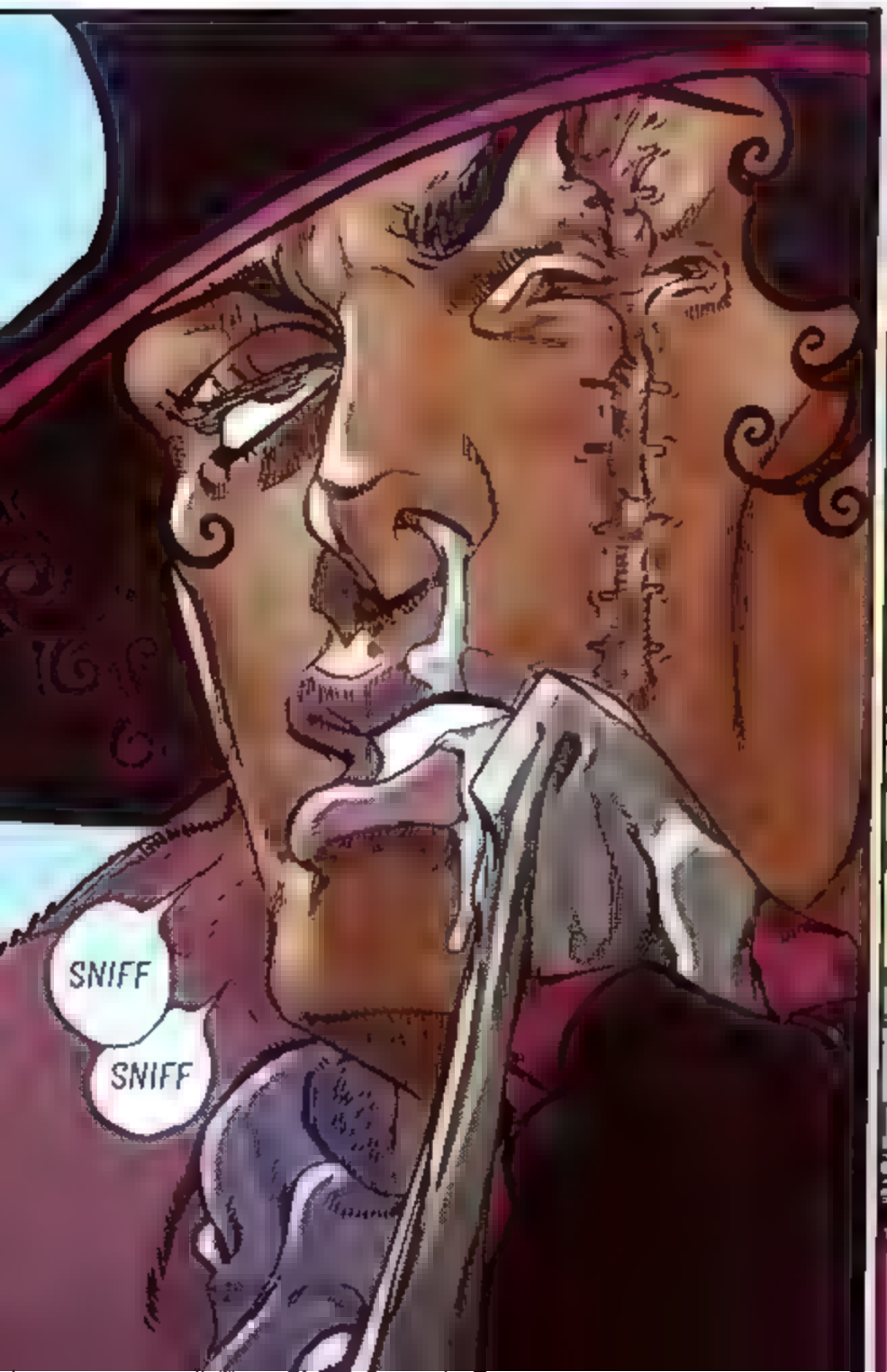
GRRR!


WHAT?! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO LUCY RIGHT NOW?!
IT CAN'T BE! IT CAN'T BE! THIS...!

'CUSE ME...
CAN I HAVE A MOMENT?
CAN YOU HOLD THIS FOR ME? *SNIFF*


SNIFF
SNIFF

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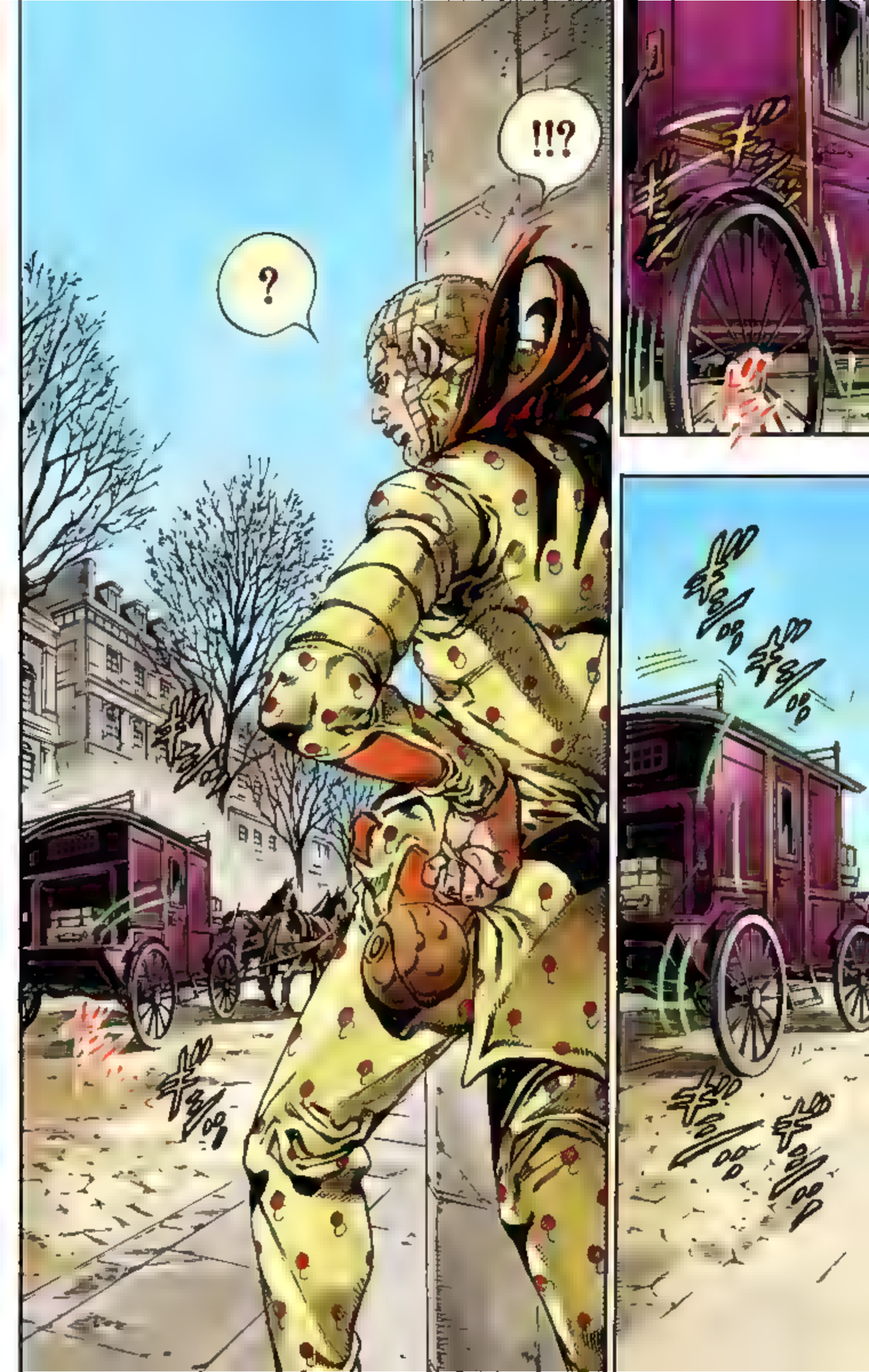
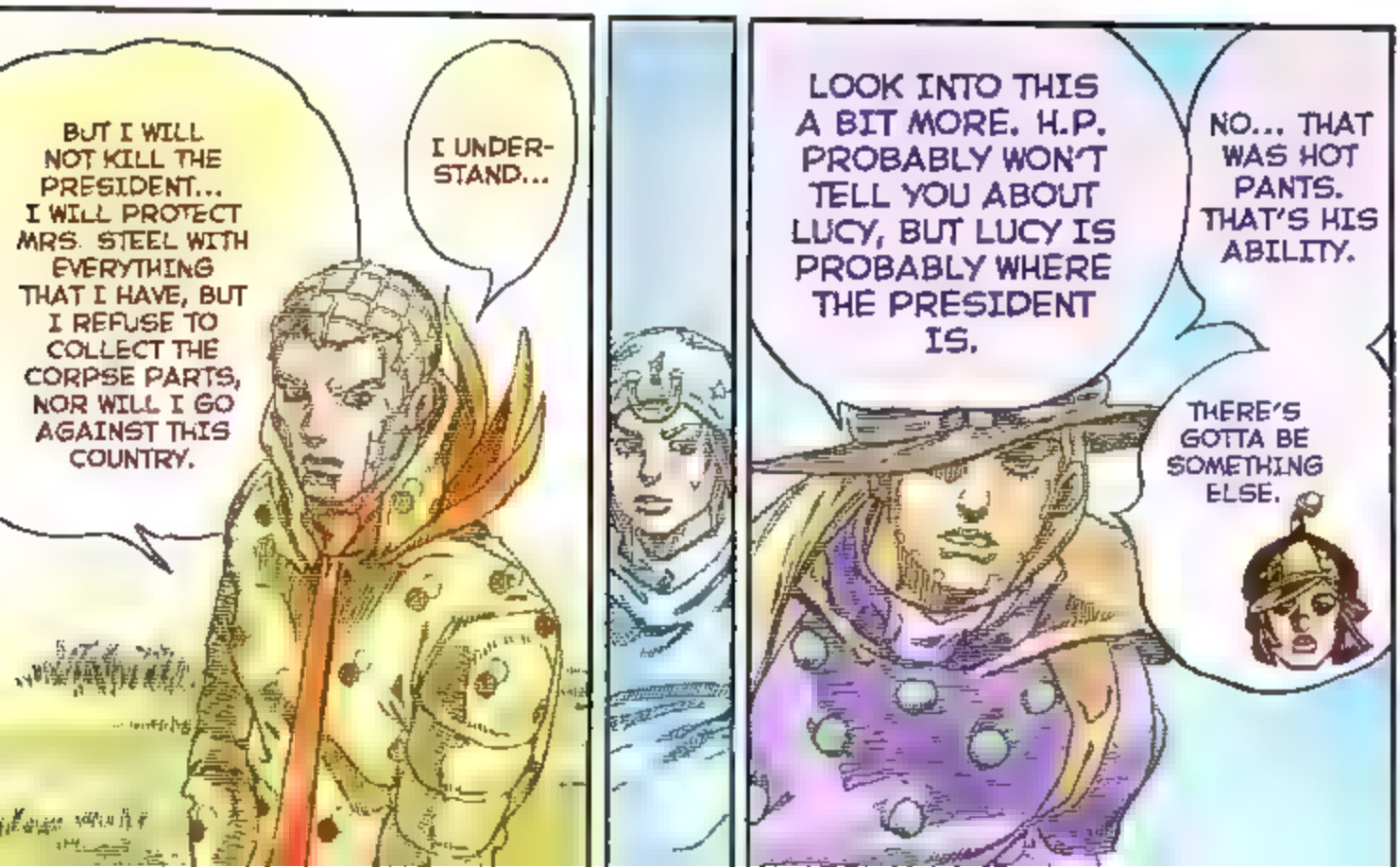
I COULD'VE TAKEN CARE OF MY WOUND FASTER...
WITHOUT HAVING TO STAY IN THAT SHIT-FREEZING COLD FOR TWO DAMN WEEKS!
IF WE JUST HAD AIRPLANES...
IT WOULD'VE BEEN FINE.
NOW I GET THESE DAMN MIGRAINES AND I DRIP SNOT AND DROOL LIKE CRAZY ALL THE FUCKIN' TIME...
OH.
'CUSE ME, CAN YOU HOLD THAT RULER SIDEWAYS? YEAH, LIKE THAT... I CAN'T GET A GOOD GRASP OF DISTANCE, YA KNOW?

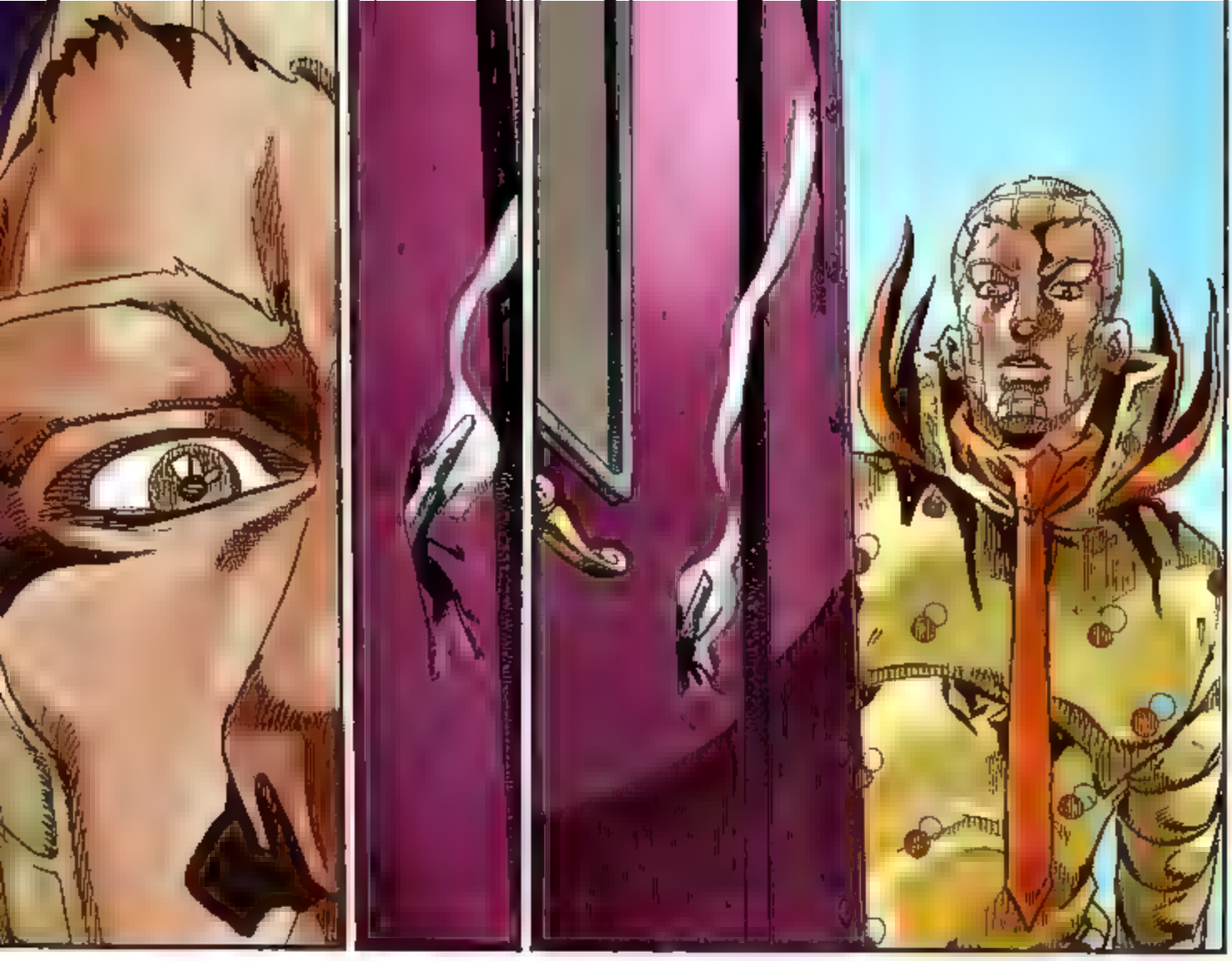
NOPE, I DON'T REALLY NEED ANYTHIN' RIGHT NOW.
WANT SOME-THIN'?
SNIFF
WHO ARE YOU?
DO YOU WANT SOME-THING?
.....
.....
.....
WE DON'T 'NEED YOU' ANYMORE.
AROUND HERE...
2 CM TO THE LEFT.
BOO
BOO
FIZZ



I SAW THE CORPSE THAT THEY BURIED WITH MY OWN EYES... PROTECTING HER WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE.
...'MRS. STEEL' WAS FOUND DEAD ON THE BANK OF THE CHICAGO RIVER.
GYRO, THIS IS THE UNFORTUNATE REALITY.
Did ja' shave?
5 days ago. December 23rd
.....
.....
.....


BUT I WILL NOT KILL THE PRESIDENT... I WILL PROTECT MRS. STEEL WITH EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE, BUT I REFUSE TO COLLECT THE CORPSE PARTS, NOR WILL I GO AGAINST THIS COUNTRY.
I UNDERSTAND...
LOOK INTO THIS A BIT MORE. H.P. PROBABLY WON'T TELL YOU ABOUT LUCY, BUT LUCY IS PROBABLY WHERE THE PRESIDENT IS.
NO... THAT WAS HOT PANTS. THAT'S HIS ABILITY.
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING ELSE.

BUT, PLEASE! LUCY PROBABLY LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE AT THE MOMENT, AND MR. STEEL MIGHT HAVE CAUGHT ON BY NOW...
YOU'RE A COMPLI-CATED ONE, WEKAPIPO.
WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME. FIND HER, AND PROTECT HER!
I MADE MYSELF A SERVANT OF THIS COUNTRY ONCE... I CANNOT BREAK MY OWN RULES.
.....
.....
.....



MR STEEL?
.....
.....
MR. STEEL?

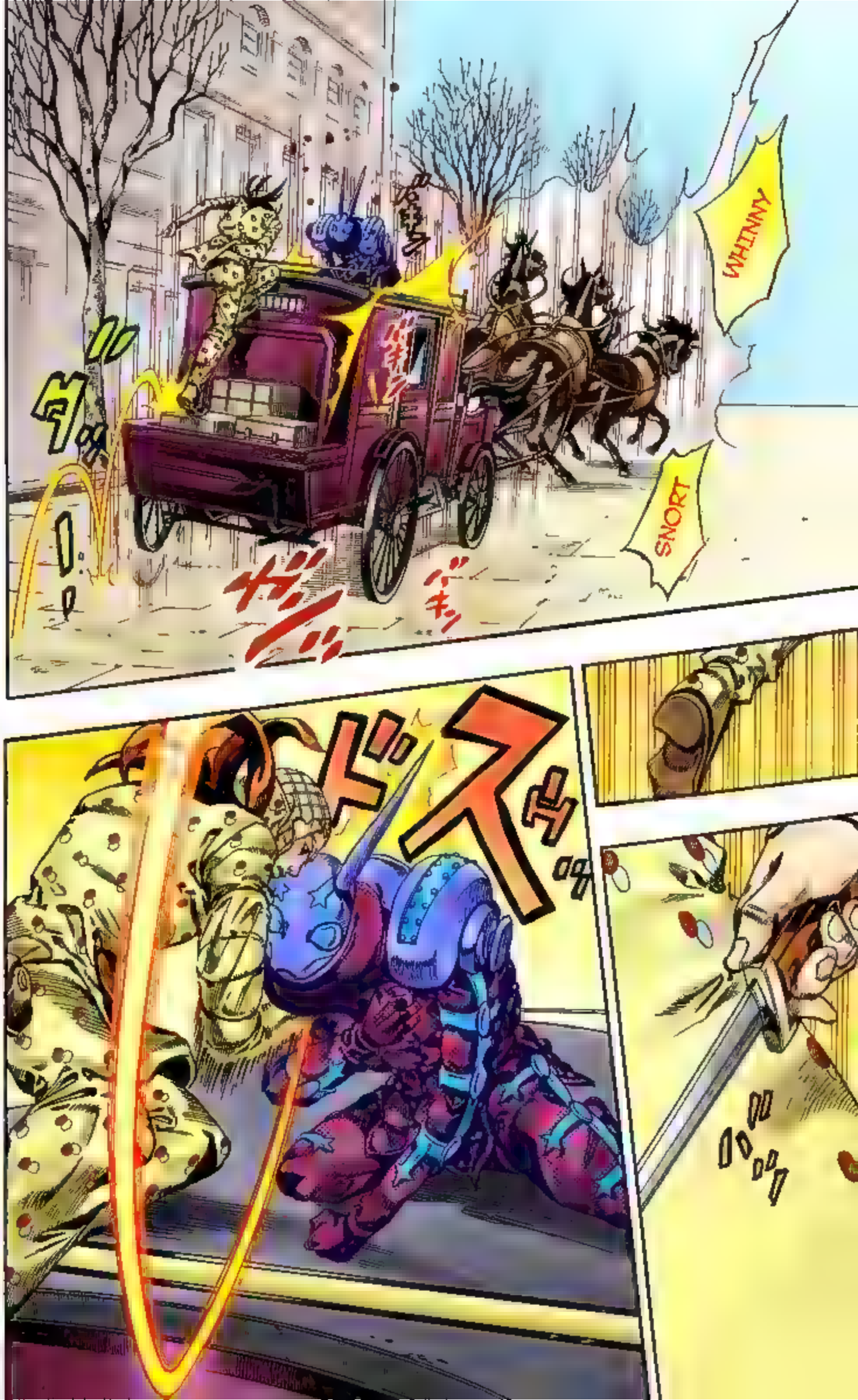
.....
.....
.....
ドドド
IT CAN'T BE...
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?
ドド
ドド

SNORT
SNORT
!!!

UGHH!
AGHH!
SHIT!

DAMN!
JEEZ...
. . .
. . .
. . . . . .
!?
. . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .
WHAT...?
IMPOSSIBLE!
WAS THAT...?
NO...!

SINCE YOU'RE OLDER, I'LL BE MORE RESPECTFUL! I'LL RIP YOUR LIMBS APART FIRST, ONE BY ONE... FOR YOU, I'LL...
I PURPOSE-FULLY DIDN'T HIT YOU RIGHT IN THE VITALS!
WEKAPIPO! I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU EVENTUALLY IF I KEPT ON TRACKING STEEL...
TCH!
MAKE SURE TO LET YOU HAVE A TASTE OF THE WORST KIND OF LIVING HELL, AND KILL YOU SLOWLY...
MR. "HIGH AND MIGHTY"...
GLANCE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WHINNY
SNORT
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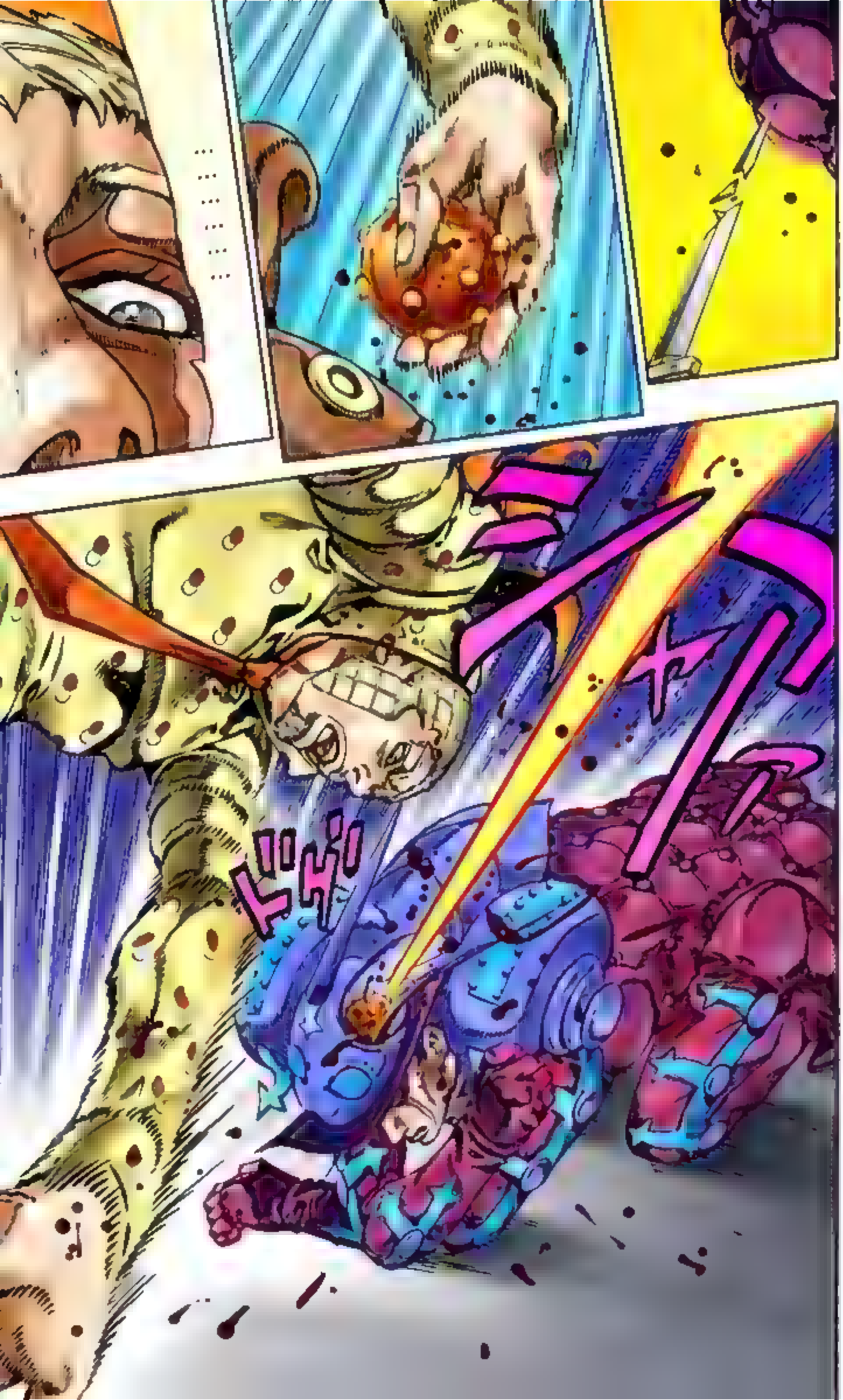
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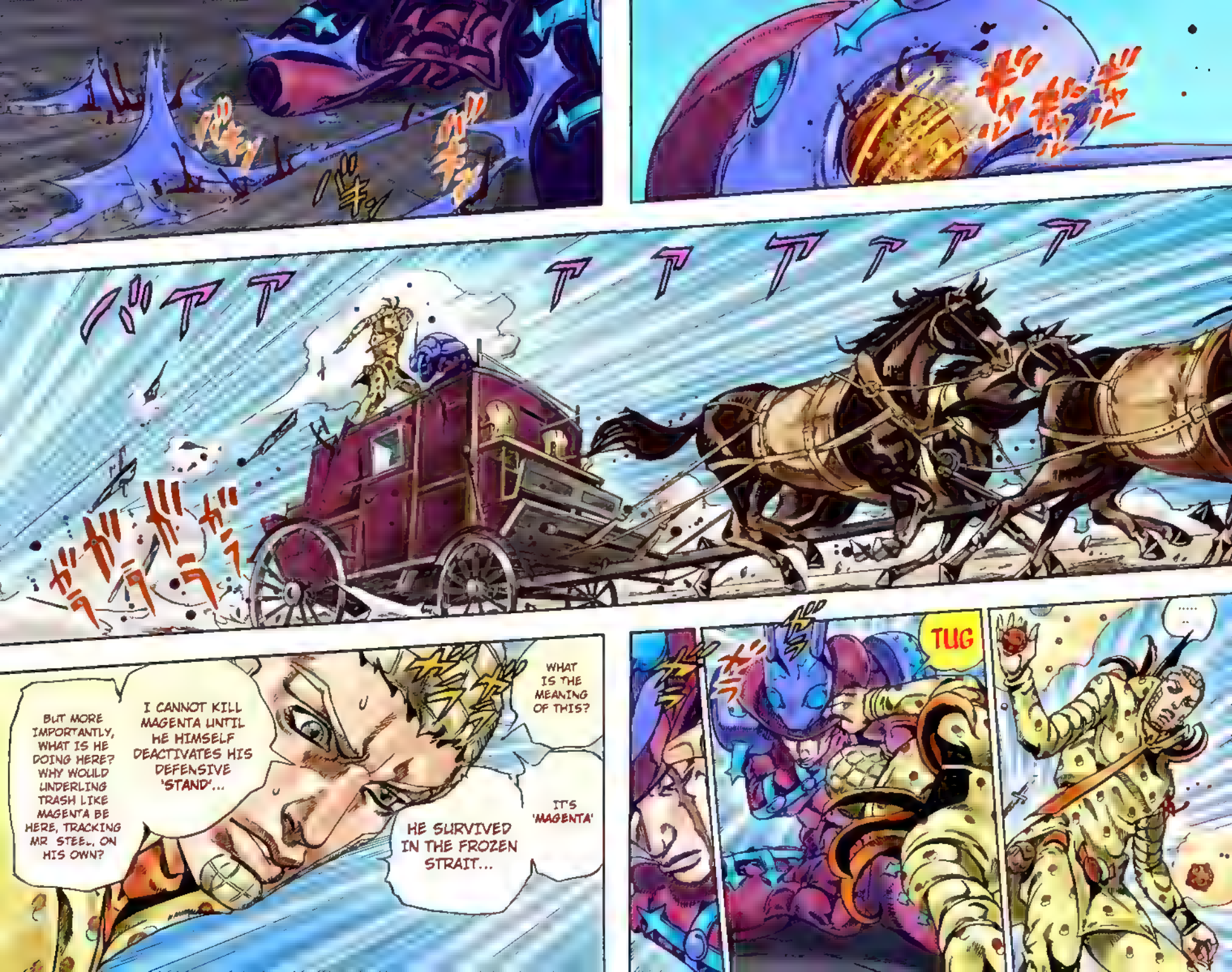
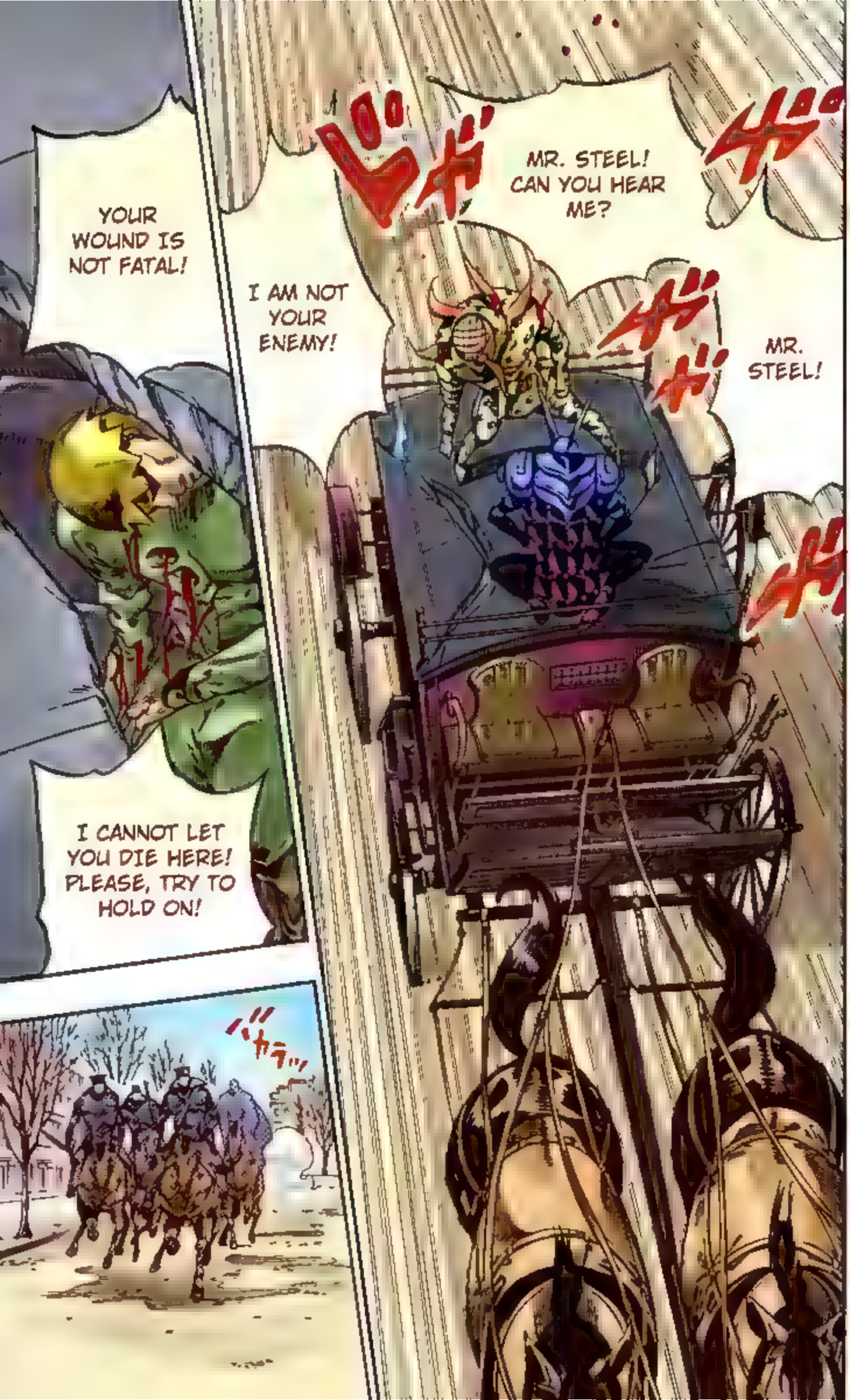
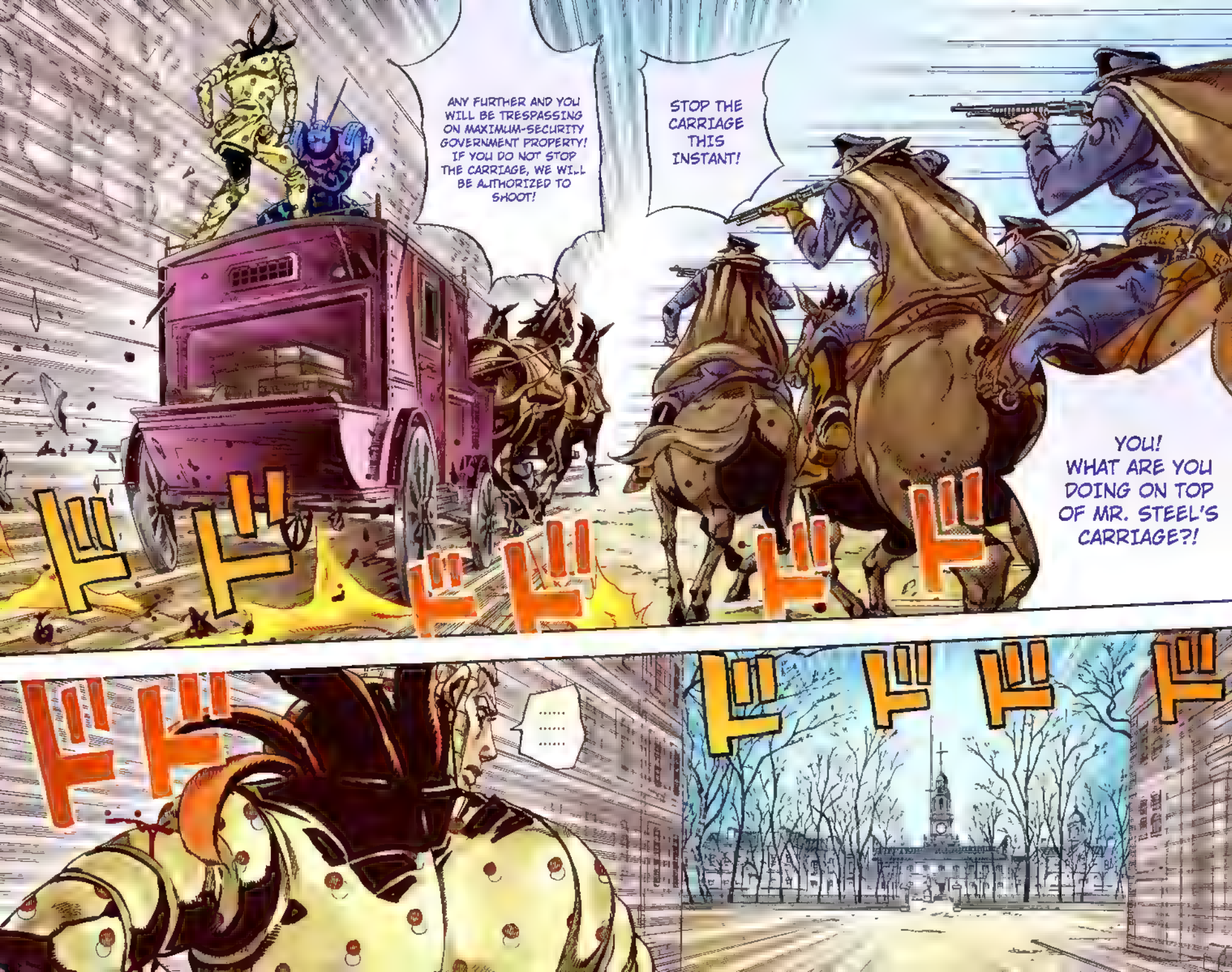

TUG
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
IT'S 'MAGENTA'
HE SURVIVED IN THE FROZEN STRAIT...
I CANNOT KILL MAGENTA UNTIL HE HIMSELF DEACTIVATES HIS DEFENSIVE 'STAND'...
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT IS HE DOING HERE? WHY WOULD UNDERLING TRASH LIKE MAGENTA BE HERE, TRACKING MR. STEEL, ON HIS OWN?

HE MUST HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO OUR CONVERSATION... AND NOW, HE'S HERE FOR THE 'MONEY' AND 'REVENGE'
BACK AT THE STRAIT...
THAT HE'S LOOKING FOR LUCY STEEL?
COULD IT BE...
!?
... ...


MR. STEEL! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
MR. STEEL!
YOUR WOUND IS NOT FATAL!
I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY!
I CANNOT LET YOU DIE HERE! PLEASE, TRY TO HOLD ON!


ANY FURTHER AND YOU WILL BE TRESPASSING ON MAXIMUM-SECURITY GOVERNMENT PROPERTY! IF YOU DO NOT STOP THE CARRIAGE, WE WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO SHOOT!
STOP THE CARRIAGE THIS INSTANT!
YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON TOP OF MR. STEEL'S CARRIAGE?!
DDD
DDD
DDD
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DDD
DDD
.....
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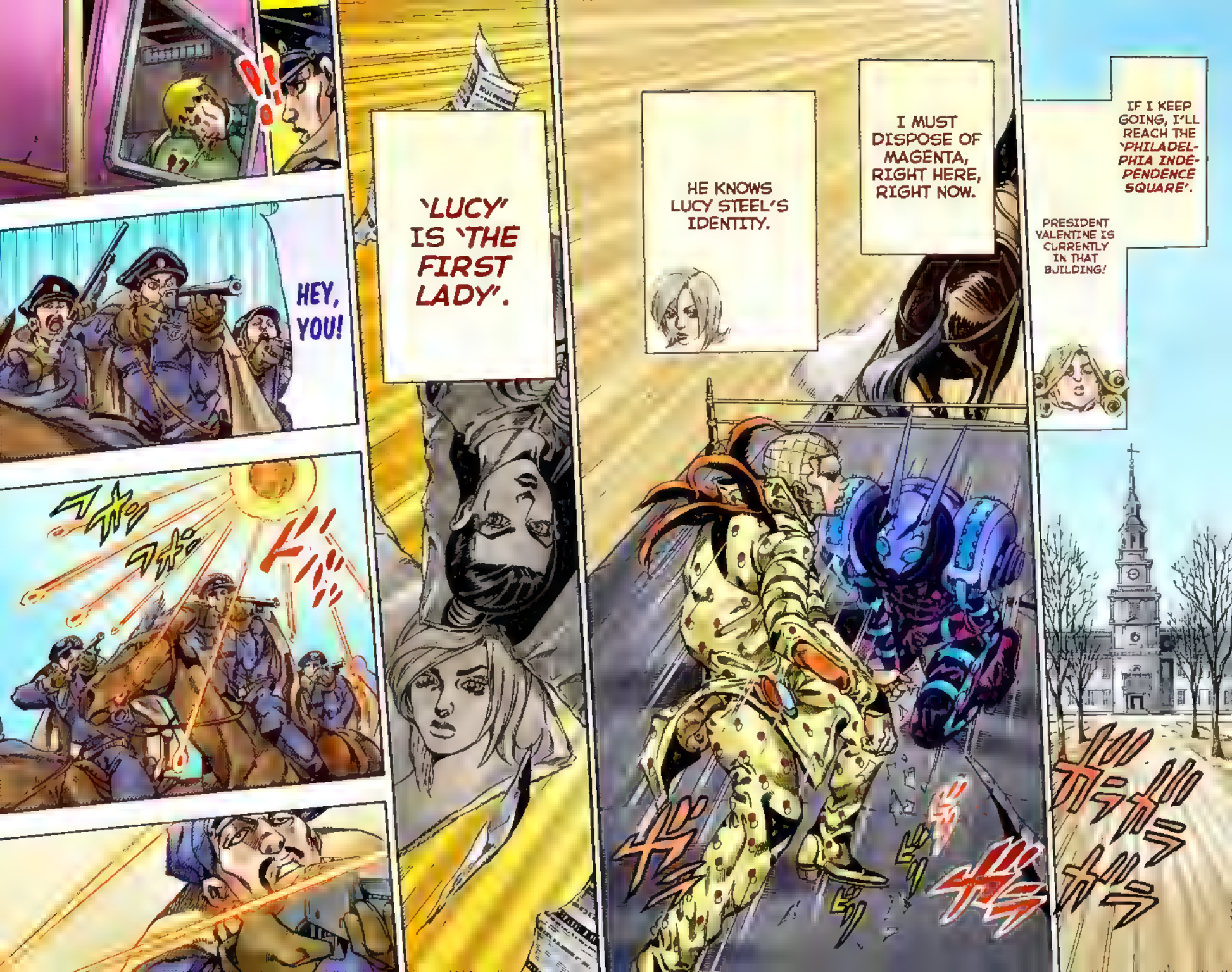
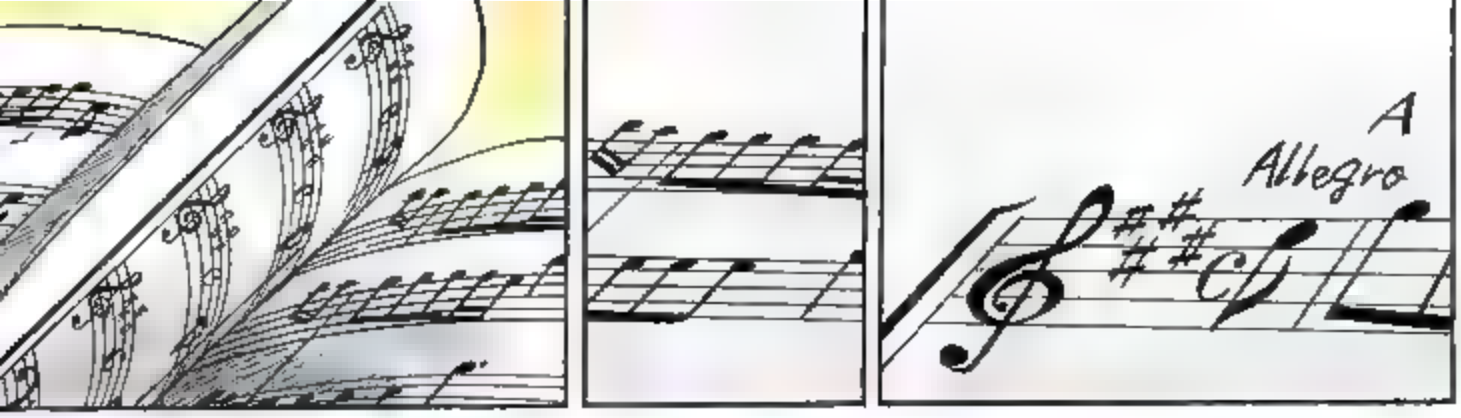
.....


!!
HEY, YOU!
'LUCY' IS 'THE FIRST LADY'.
HE KNOWS LUCY STEEL'S IDENTITY.
I MUST DISPOSE OF MAGENTA, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.
IF I KEEP GOING, I'LL REACH THE 'PHILADELPHIA INDEPENDENCE SQUARE'.
PRESIDENT VALENTINE IS CURRENTLY IN THAT BUILDING!

!?
LEFT-SIDE-ATAXIA.
December 28th, 2:45 in the afternoon
Gyro Zeppeli
Johnny Joestar 1 hour until they reach the goal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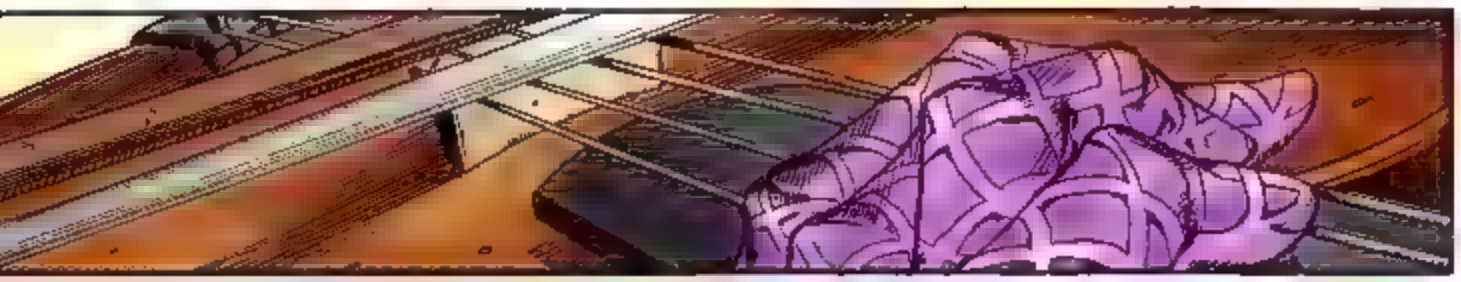
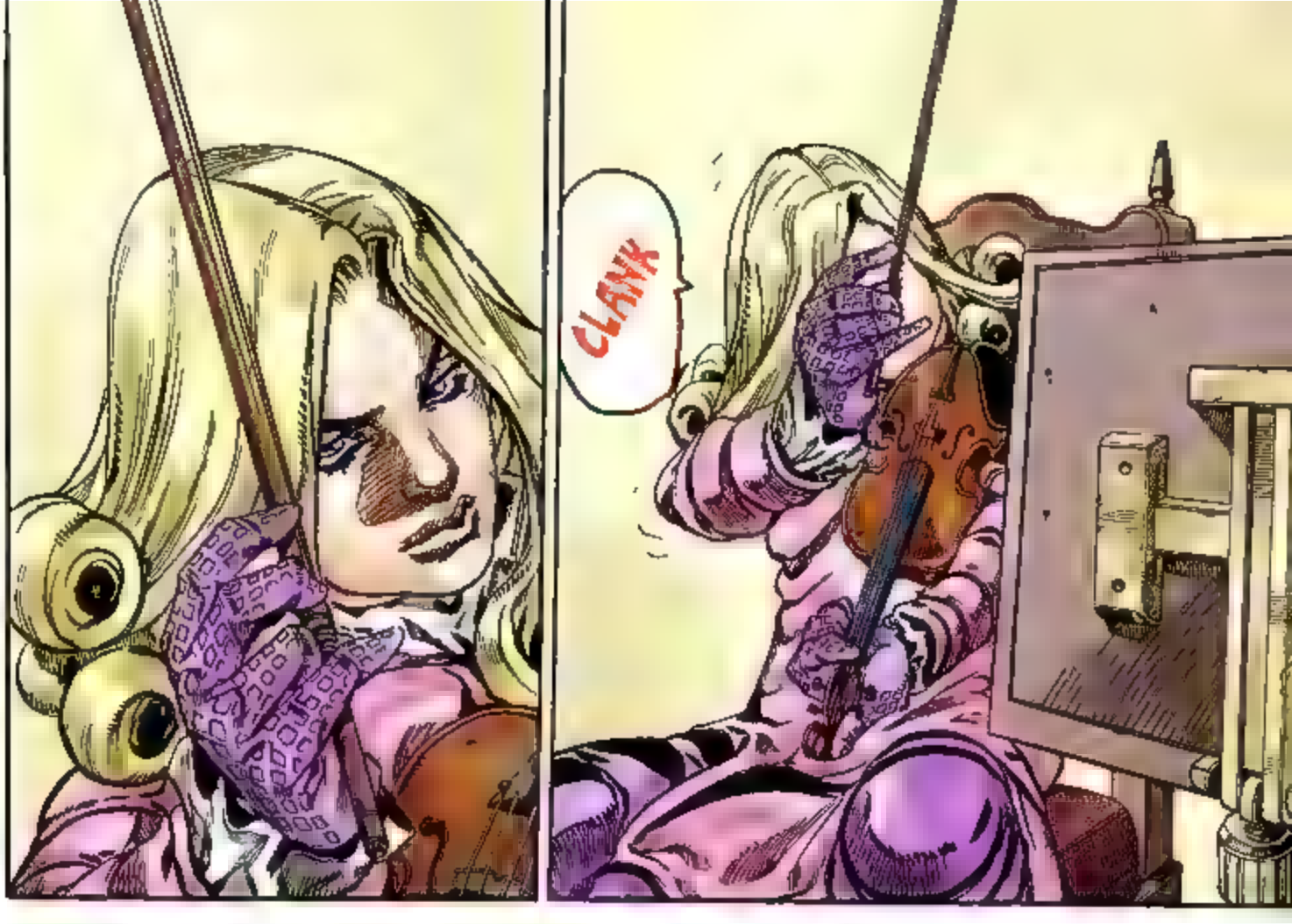
Allegro

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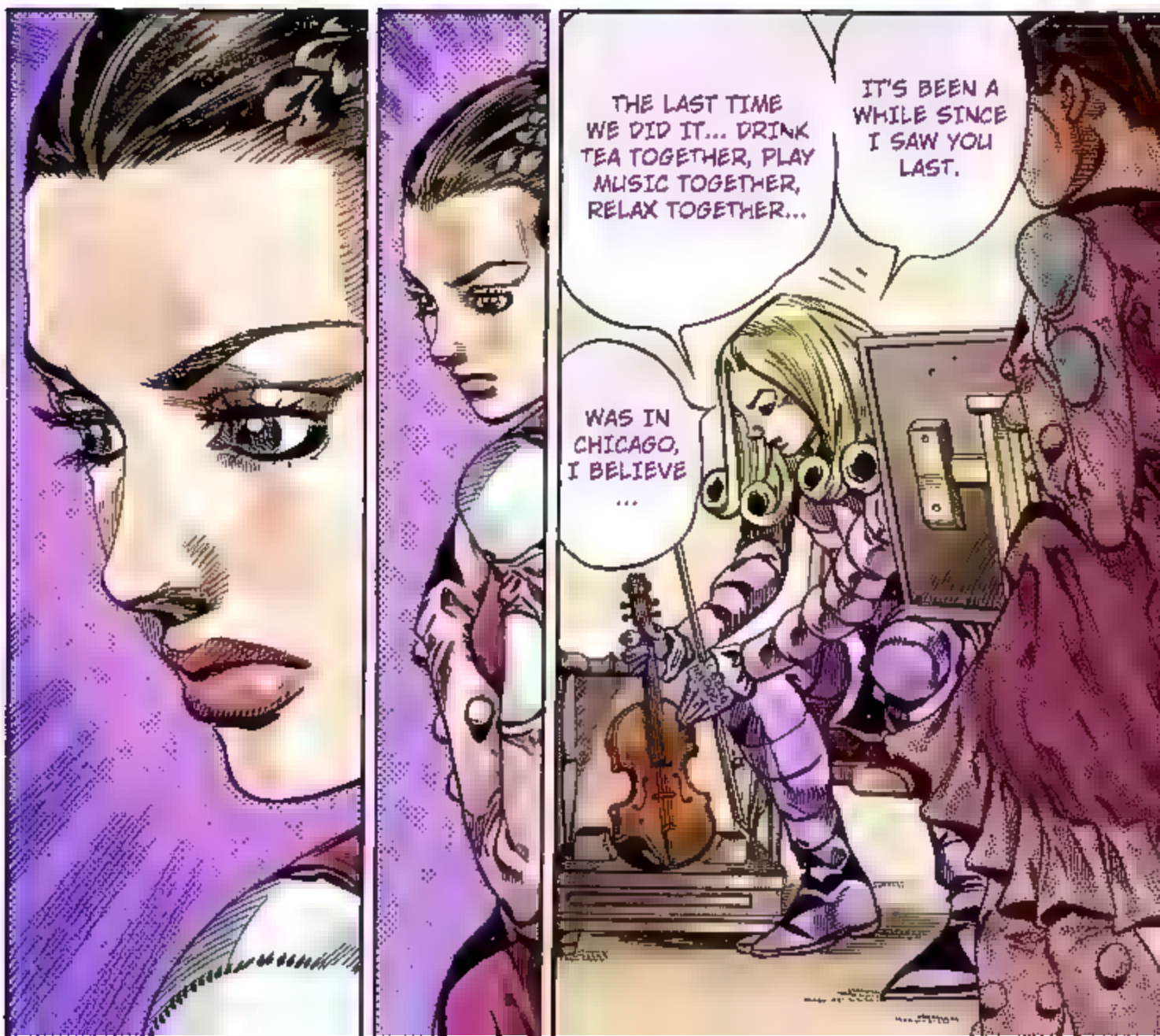
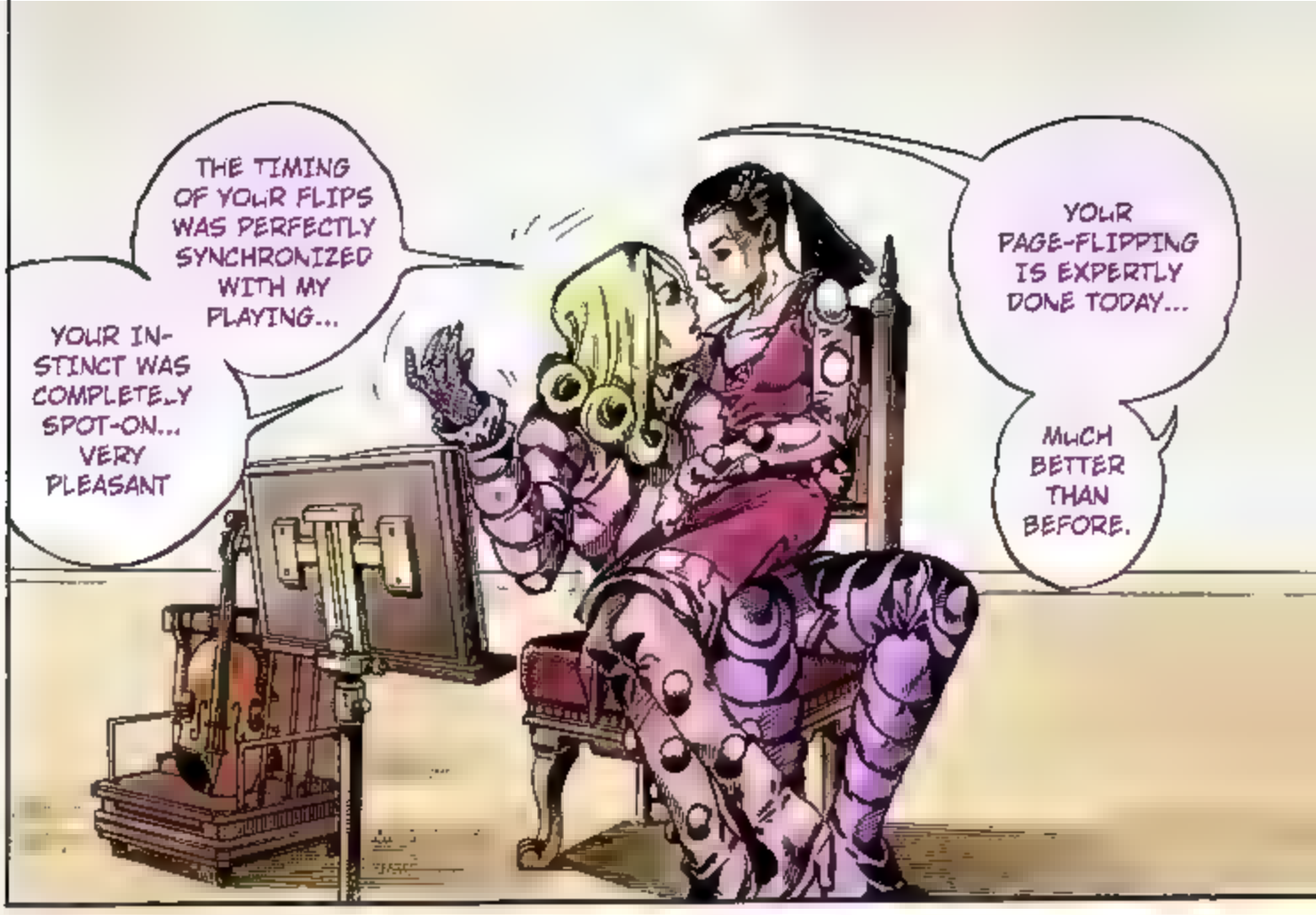
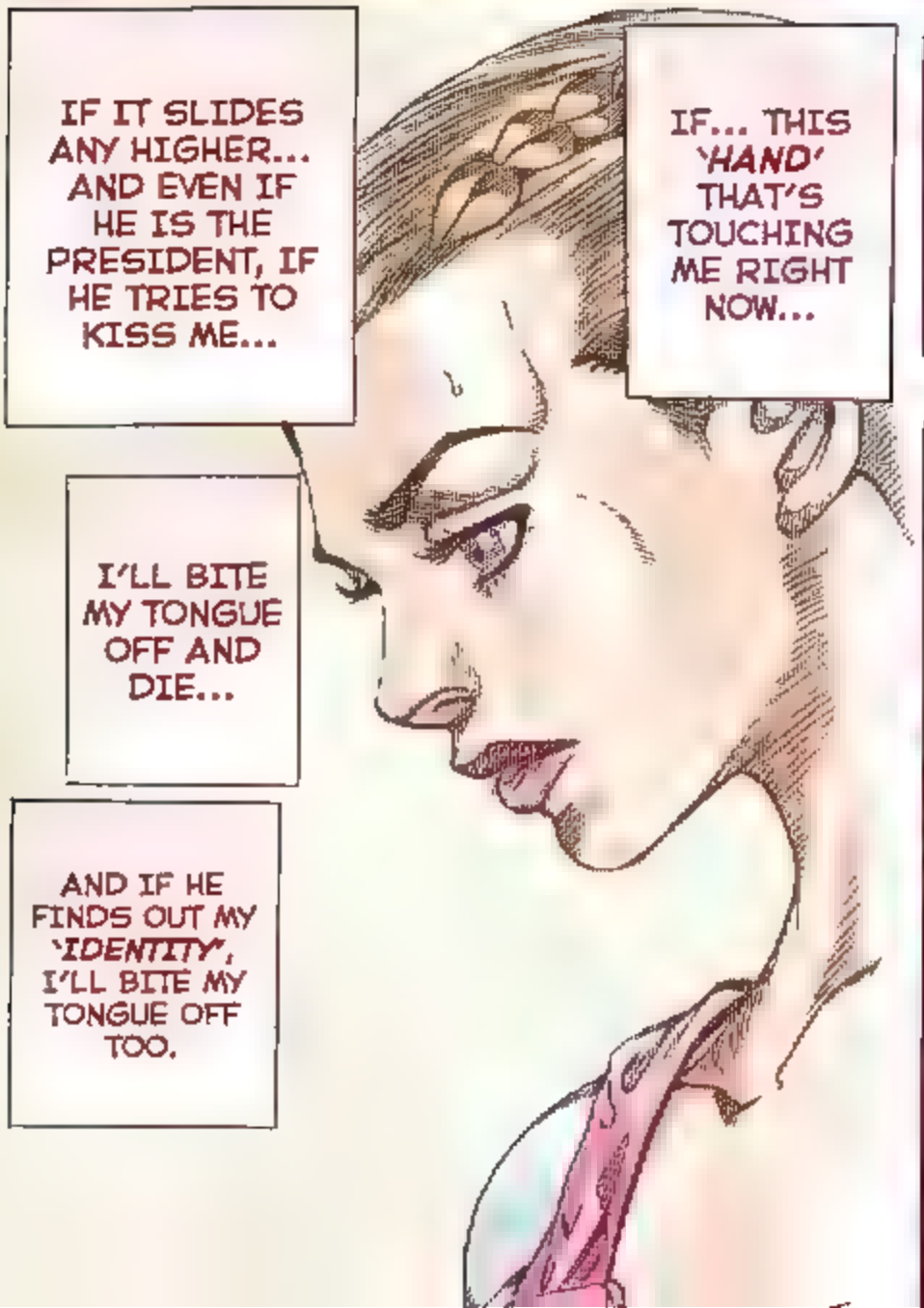
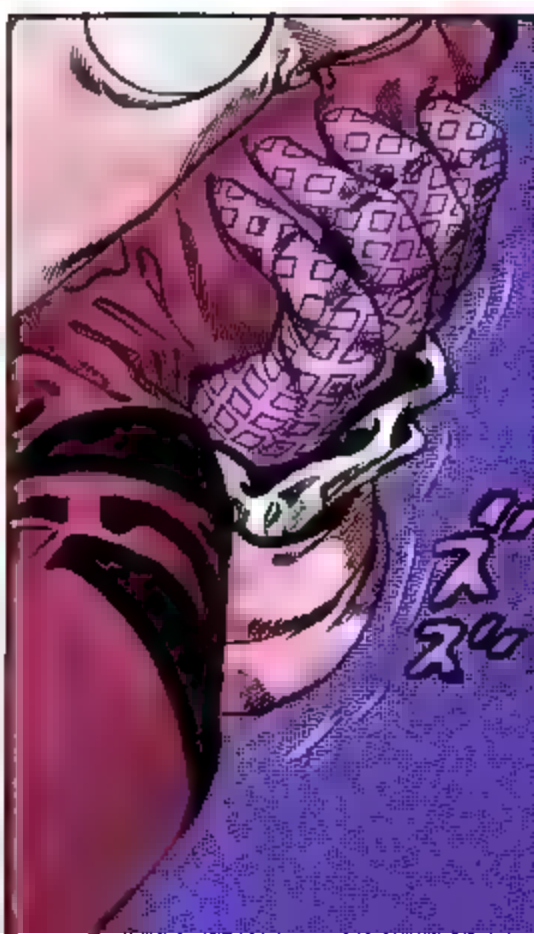

THE LAST TIME WE DID IT... DRINK TEA TOGETHER, PLAY MUSIC TOGETHER, RELAX TOGETHER...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SAW YOU LAST.
WAS IN CHICAGO, I BELIEVE ...

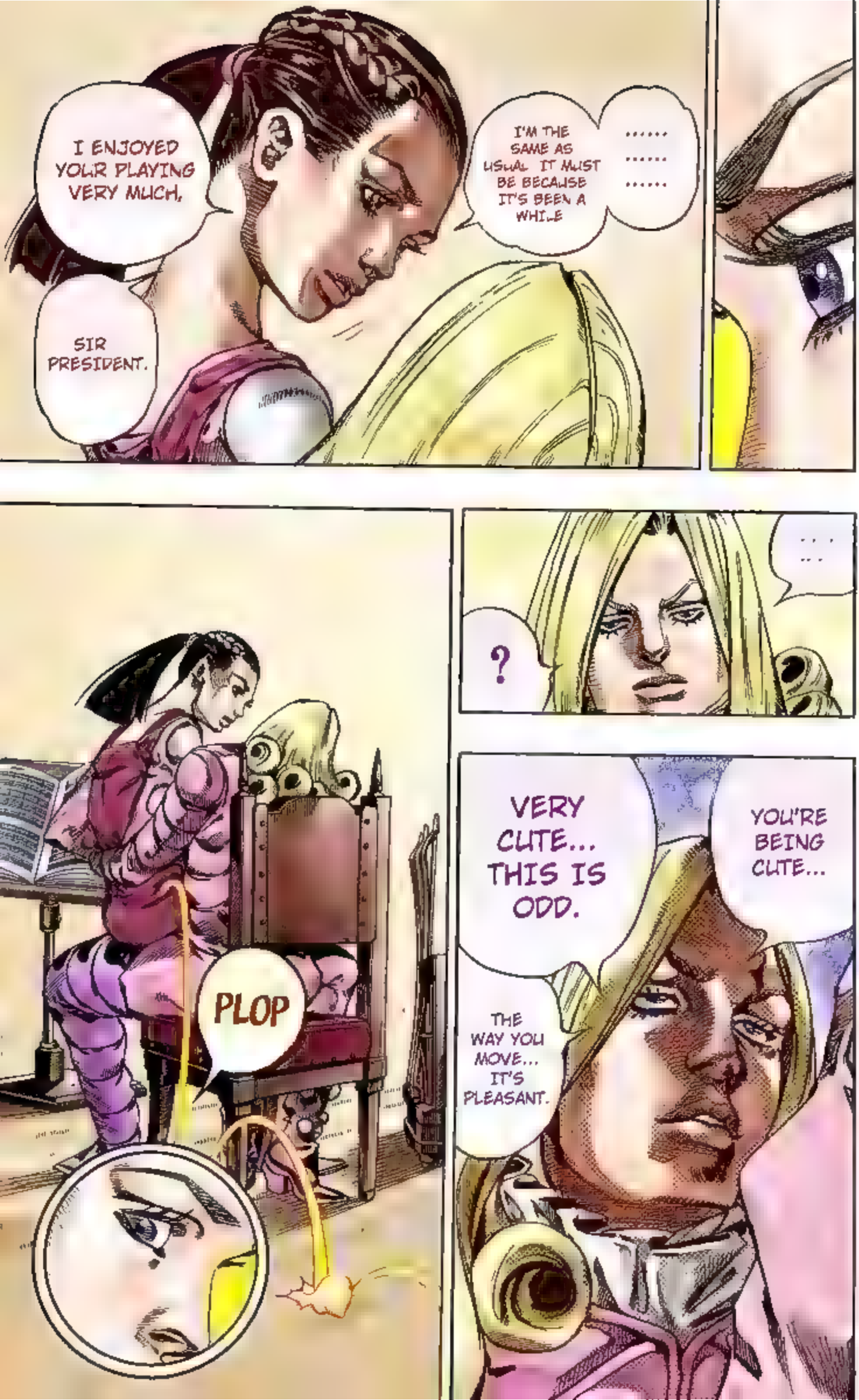
THE MASSIVE AMOUNT OF WORK THAT I'VE BEEN DOING SINCE THE START OF THE RACE WILL BE COMING TO AN END SOON.
!
SOMETHING ABOUT YOU IS 'DIFFERENT' TODAY.
'SOME-THING'...
BUT YOU...

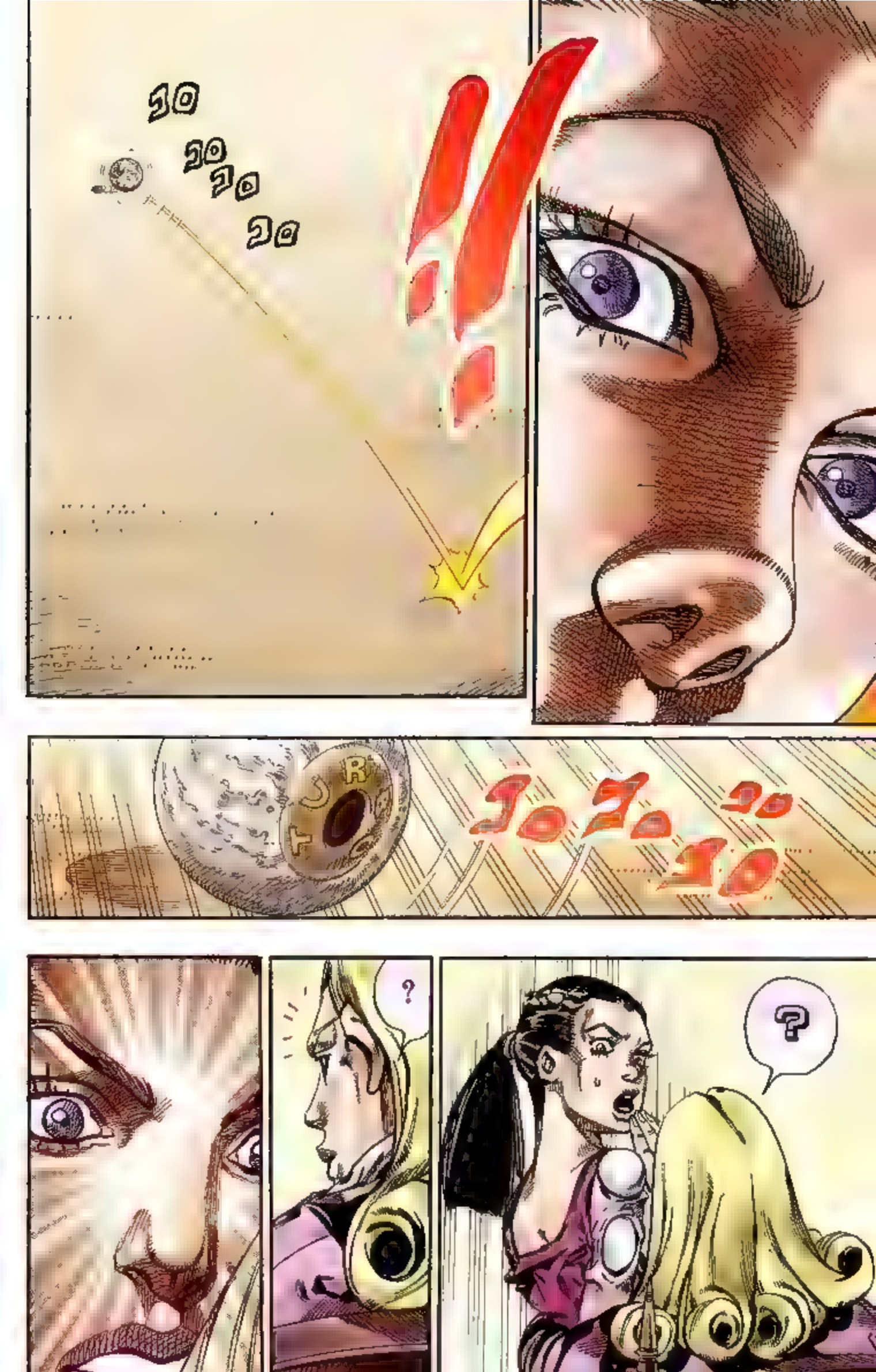

THE TIMING OF YOUR FLIPS WAS PERFECTLY SYNCHRONIZED WITH MY PLAYING...
YOUR IN-STINCT WAS COMPLETELY SPOT-ON... VERY PLEASANT
YOUR PAGE-FLIPPING IS EXPERTLY DONE TODAY...
MUCH BETTER THAN BEFORE.


IF IT SLIDES ANY HIGHER... AND EVEN IF HE IS THE PRESIDENT, IF HE TRIES TO KISS ME...
IF... THIS 'HAND' THAT'S TOUCHING ME RIGHT NOW...
I'LL BITE MY TONGUE OFF AND DIE...
AND IF HE FINDS OUT MY 'IDENTITY', I'LL BITE MY TONGUE OFF TOO.

SUP




I ENJOYED YOUR PLAYING VERY MUCH,
SIR PRESIDENT.
I'M THE SAME AS USUAL IT MUST BE BECAUSE IT'S BEEN A WHILE
.....
.....
.....
PLOP
?
. . .
. . .
VERY CUTE... THIS IS ODD.
THE WAY YOU MOVE... IT'S PLEASANT.
YOU'RE BEING CUTE...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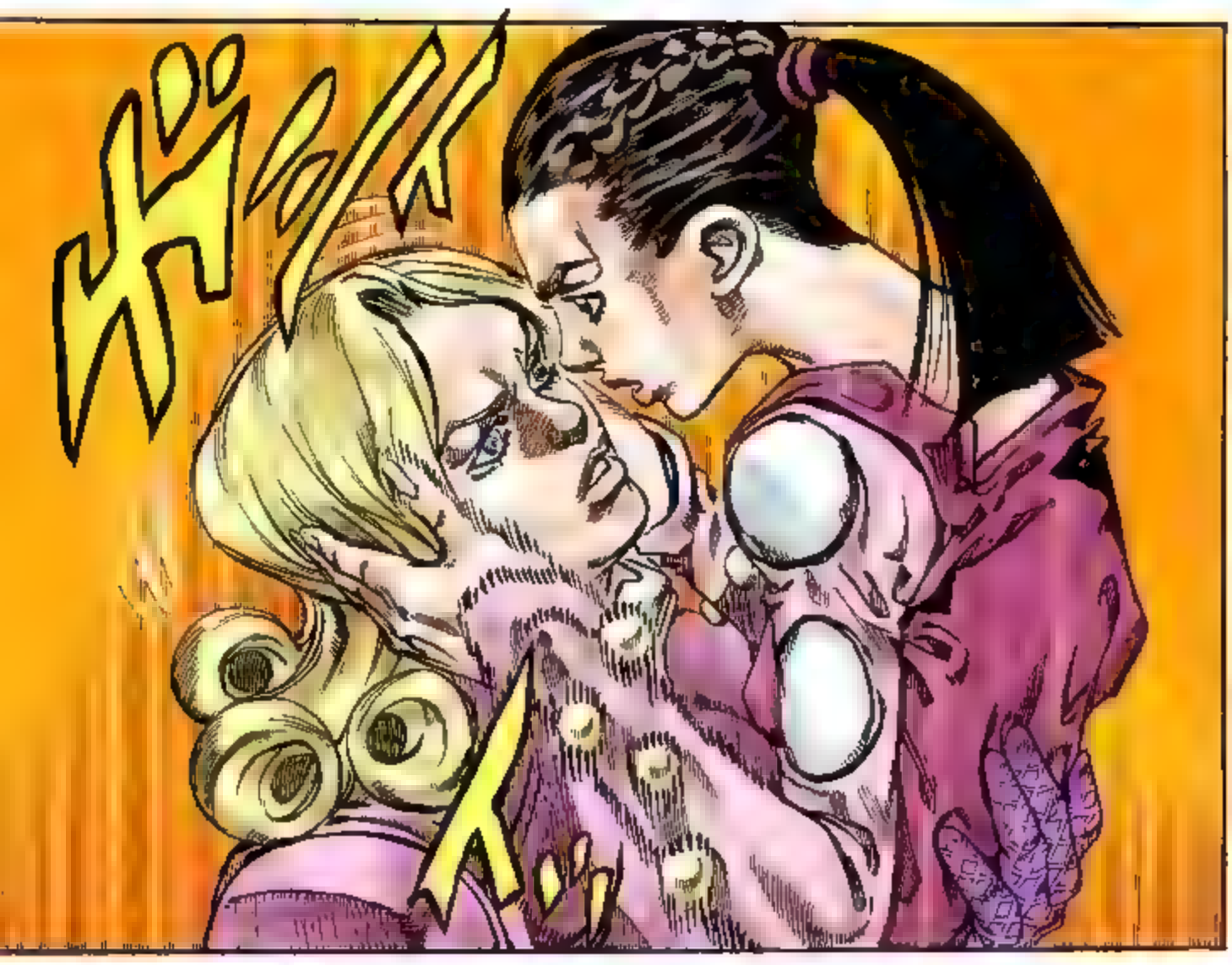

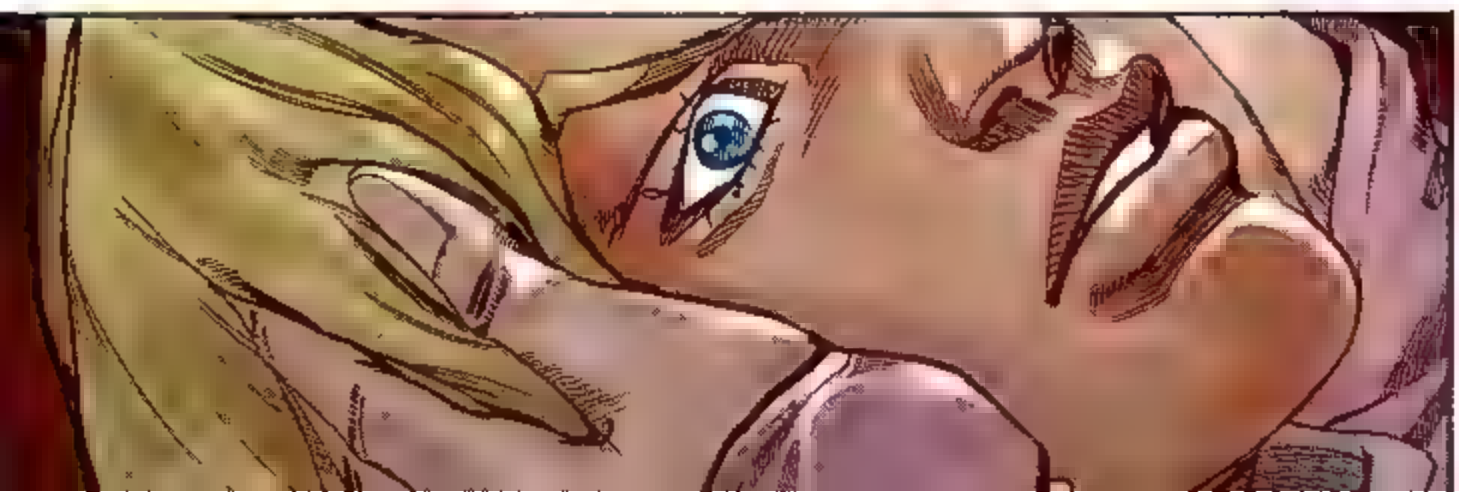

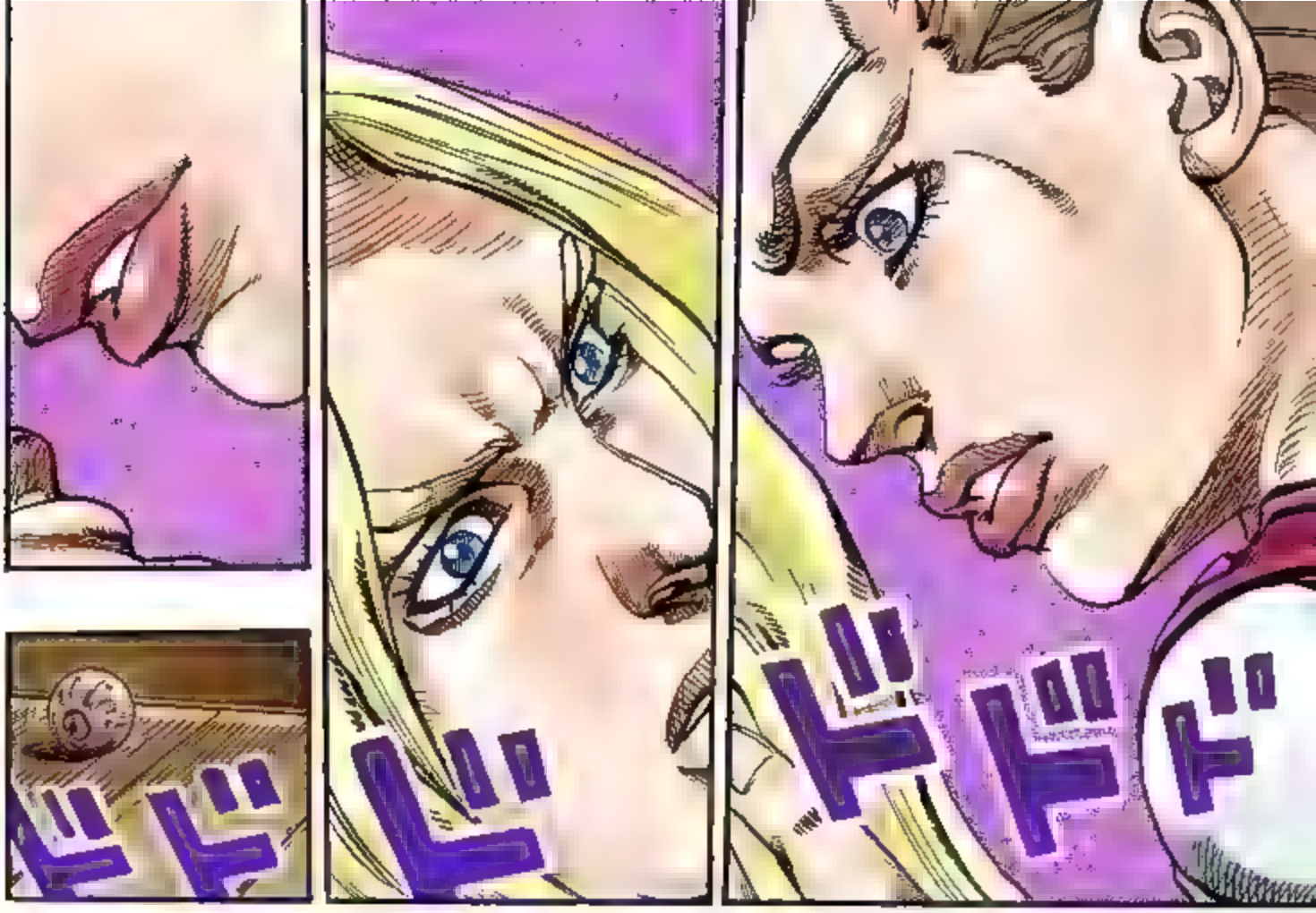
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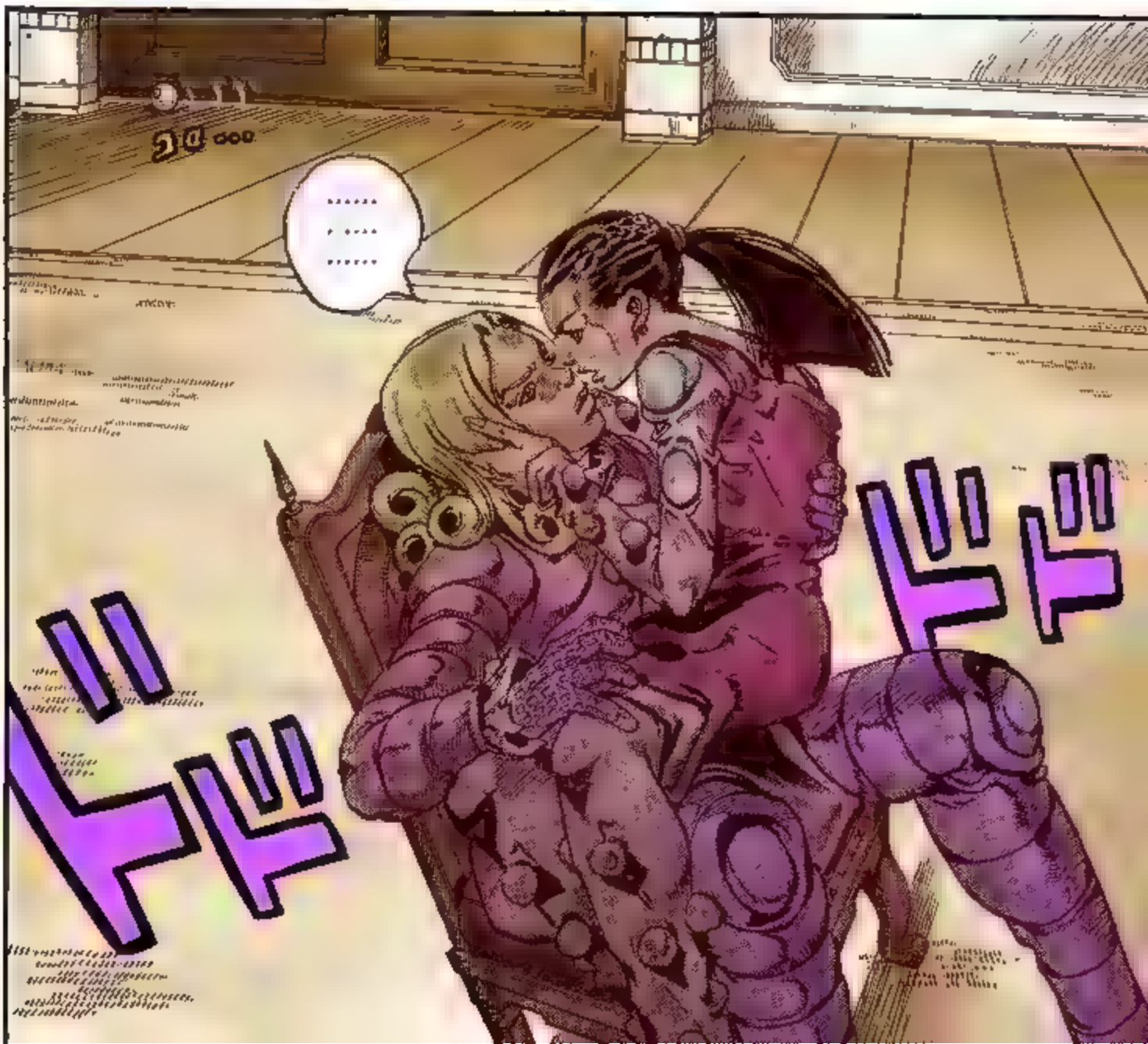
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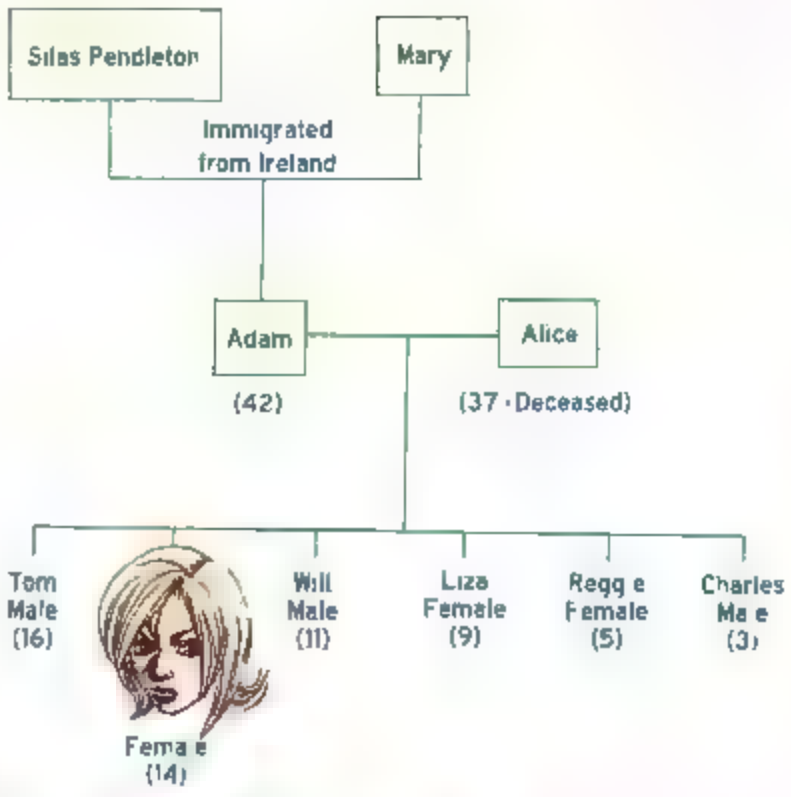
#61
BOTH SIDES NOW
PART ②



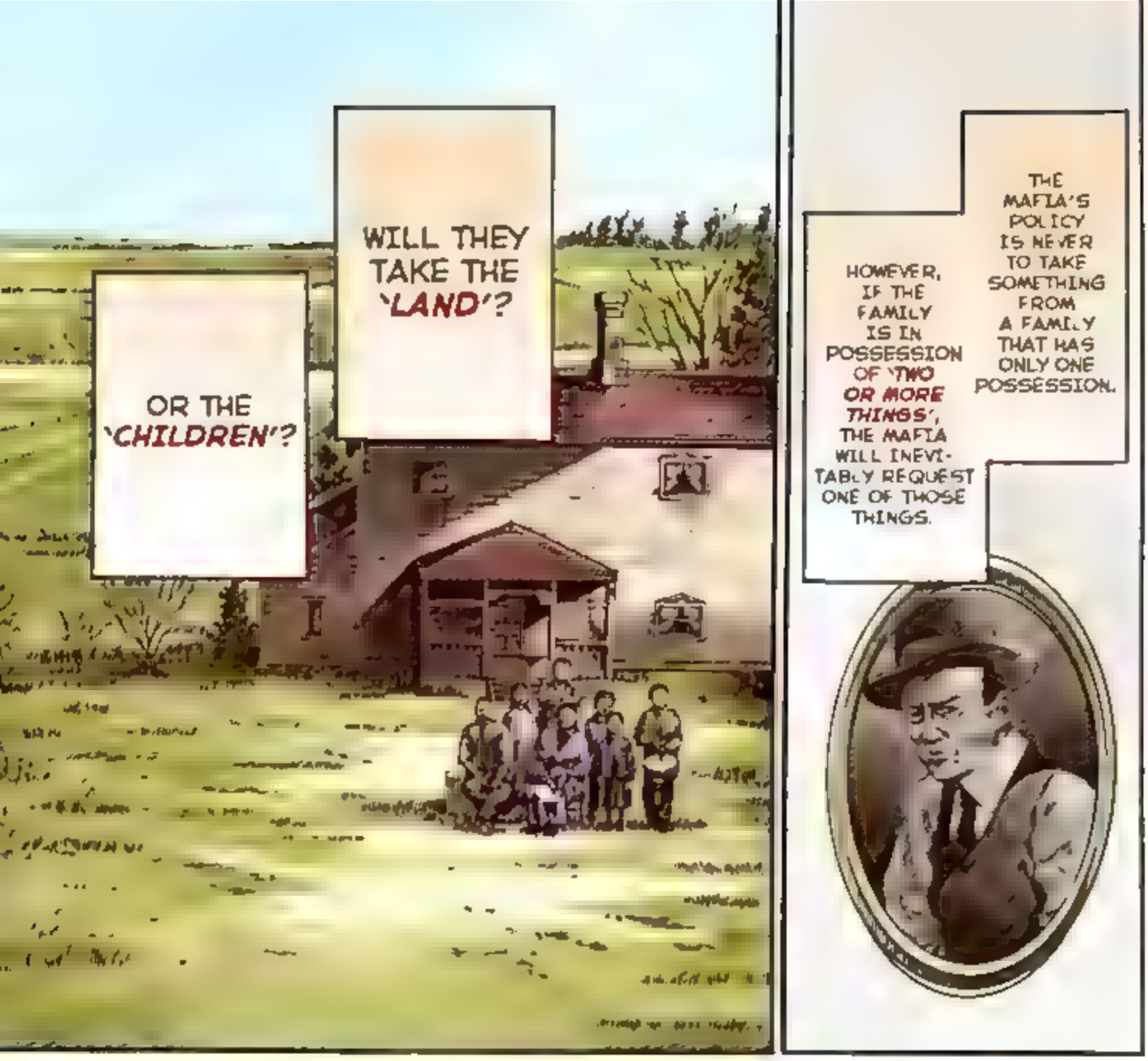
LUCY'S (AGE 14) FAMILY CONSISTS OF 6 CHILDREN, AND LUCY IS THE SECOND ELDEST OF THE BUNCH.

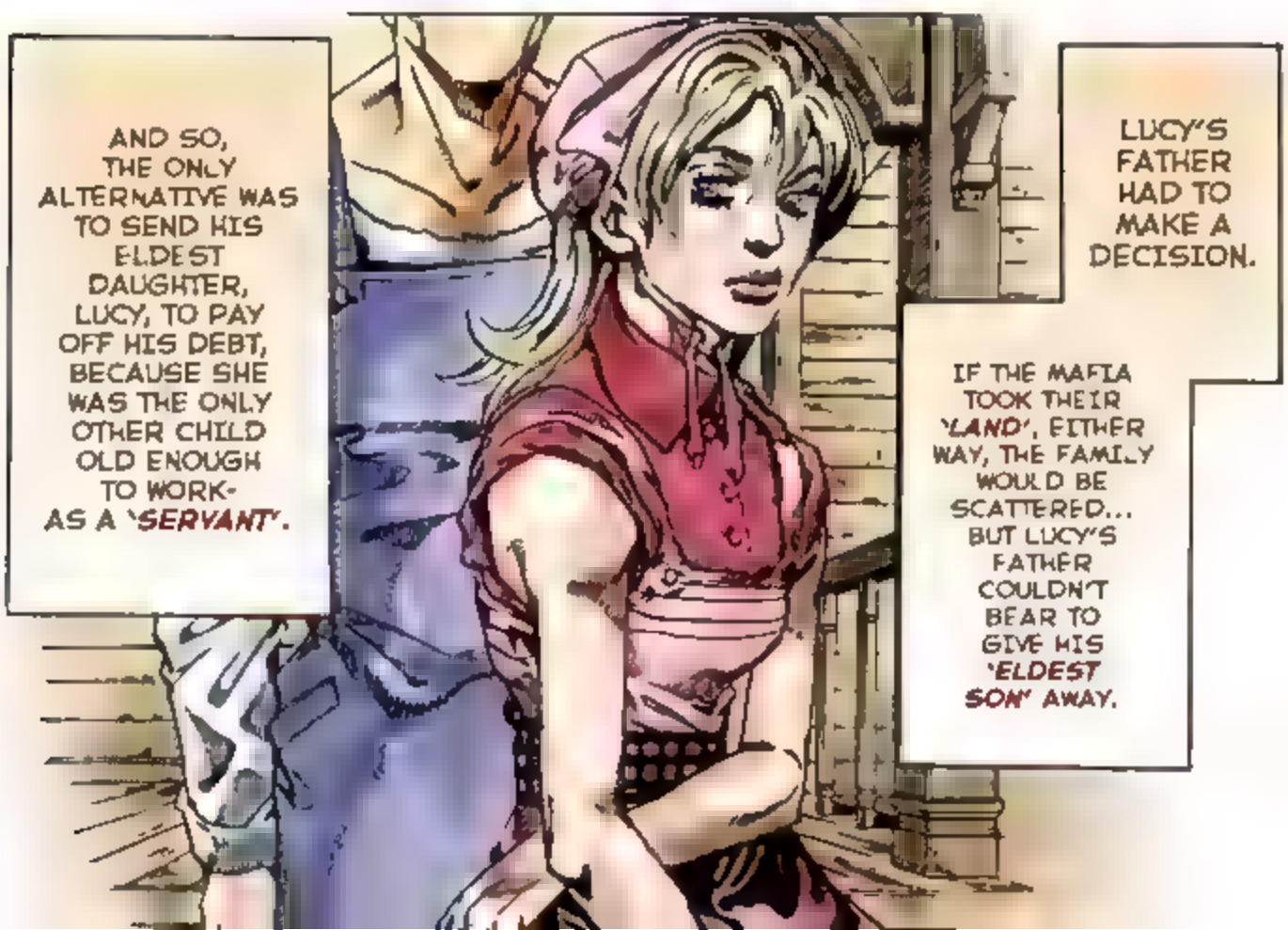
HER MAIDEN NAME IS PENDLETON. HER FATHER IS OF IMMIGRANT DESCENT, AND OWNS A SMALL FARM IN OKLAHOMA.

AFTER HER MOTHER'S DEATH WHEN LUCY WAS JUST 12, A CLOUD OF MISFORTUNE CAST ITS SHADOW OVER THE FAMILY.

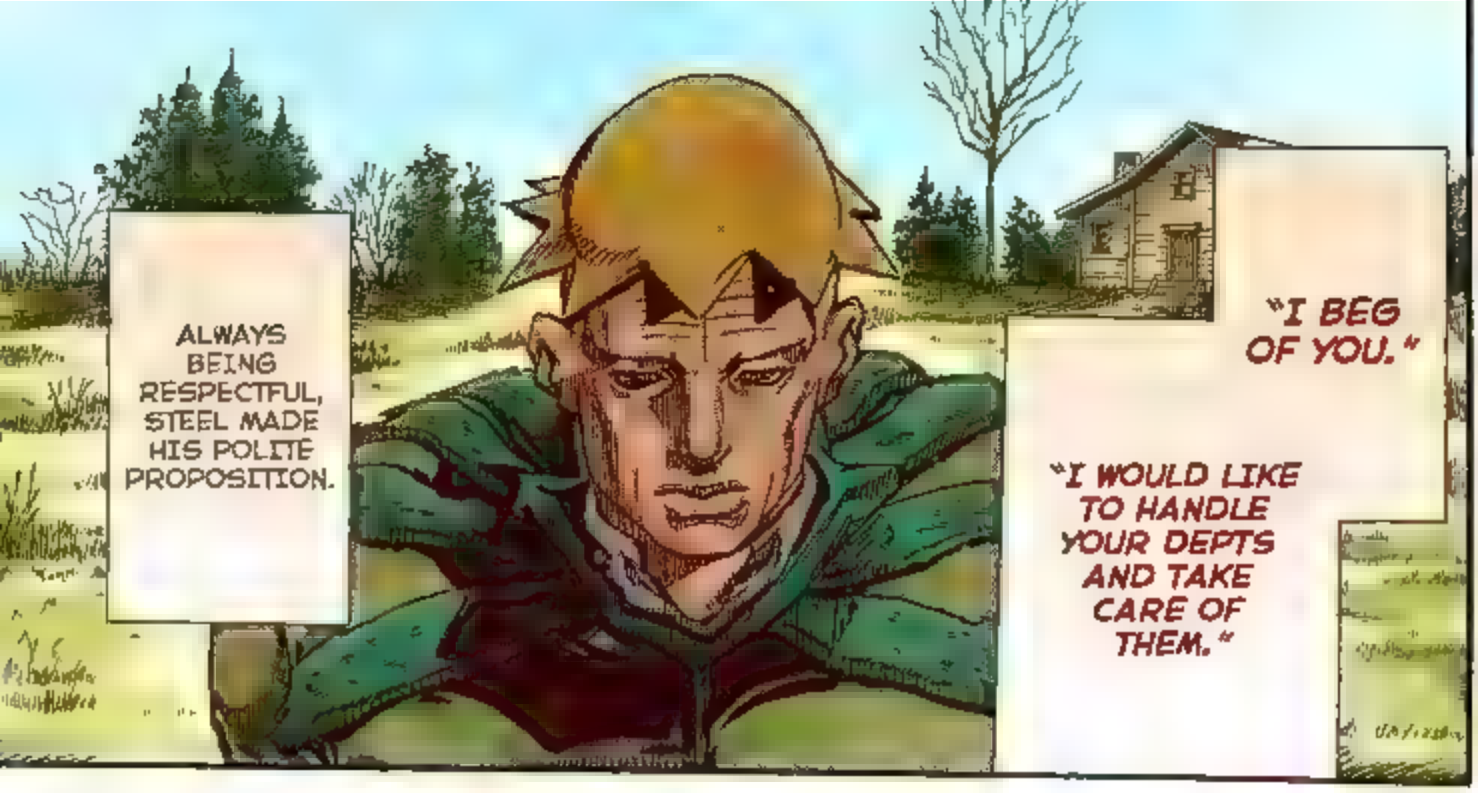
THEY DISCOVERED THAT THE MONEY THEY HAD BORROWED IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN THEIR FARM HAD BEEN MAFIA MONEY,

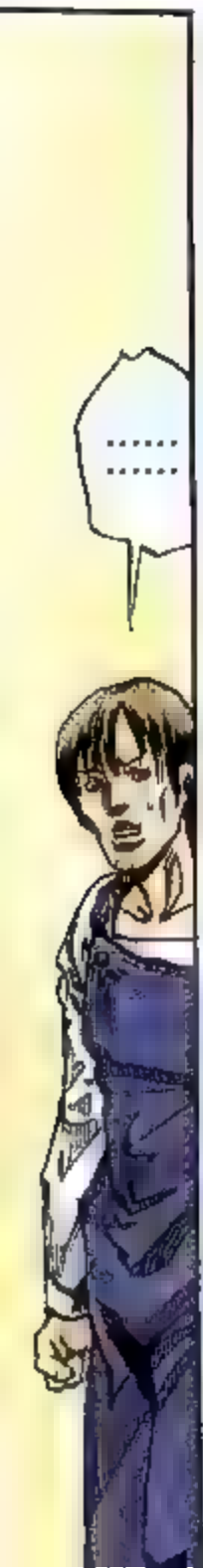
AND COUPLED WITH BAD WEATHER AND THE EMOTIONAL WOUNDS FROM HIS WIFE'S DEATH, LUCY'S FATHER SLOWLY SPIRALED INTO A MIRE OF DEBT.


WILL THEY TAKE THE 'LAND'?
OR THE 'CHILDREN'?
THE MAFIA'S POLICY IS NEVER TO TAKE SOMETHING FROM A FAMILY THAT HAS ONLY ONE POSSESSION.
HOWEVER, IF THE FAMILY IS IN POSSESSION OF 'TWO OR MORE THINGS', THE MAFIA WILL INEVITABLY REQUEST ONE OF THOSE THINGS.


AND SO, THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE WAS TO SEND HIS ELDEST DAUGHTER, LUCY, TO PAY OFF HIS DEBT, BECAUSE SHE WAS THE ONLY OTHER CHILD OLD ENOUGH TO WORK AS A 'SERVANT'.
LUCY'S FATHER HAD TO MAKE A DECISION.
IF THE MAFIA TOOK THEIR 'LAND', EITHER WAY, THE FAMILY WOULD BE SCATTERED... BUT LUCY'S FATHER COULDN'T BEAR TO GIVE HIS 'ELDEST SON' AWAY.

"A FEW YEARS AGO... WHEN I WAS IN THE DEEPEST MOMENTS OF DESPAIR, I WAS SAVED BY YOUR DAUGHTER'S KIND WORDS AND WAS ABLE TO STAND ON MY OWN TWO FEET AGAIN."
HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT HE "WANTED TO REPAY HIS SAVIOR AND REPAY THE MAN WHO RAISED HER".
STEEL TOLD LUCY'S FATHER:
THE MAN'S NAME WAS STEPHEN STEEL.
IT WAS AFTER LUCY'S FATHER HAD MADE HIS DECISION THAT SOMEONE VISITED THE FARM.
THOUGH STEEL WAS QUITE SURPRISED BY THE SITUATION, HE RECOVERED QUICKLY.
THAT 'LUCY WAS NO LONGER THERE'.
BUT LUCY'S FATHER,
THUS, HE INFORMED STEEL OF THE SITUATION.
AFTER USHERING THE OTHER CHILDREN INSIDE, TOLD HIM IT WAS 'TOO LATE'.


ALWAYS BEING RESPECTFUL, STEEL MADE HIS POLITE PROPOSITION.
"I BEG OF YOU."
"I WOULD LIKE TO HANDLE YOUR DEPTS AND TAKE CARE OF THEM."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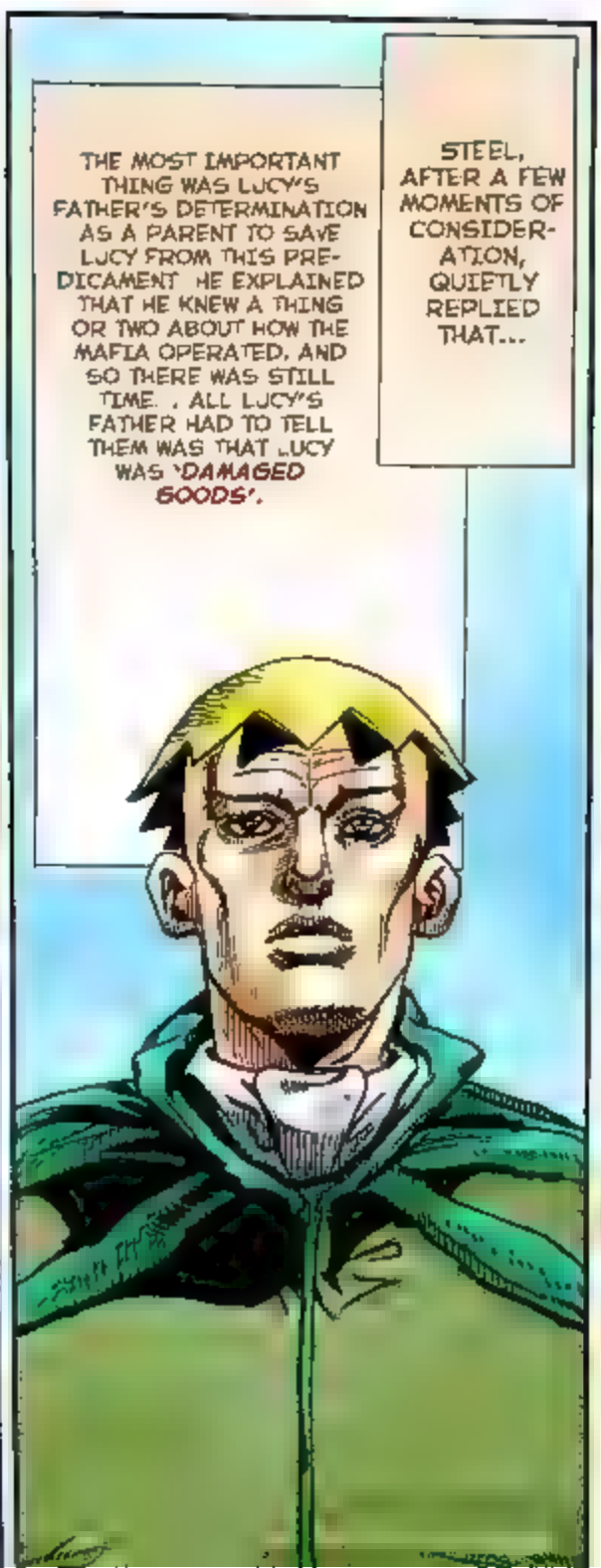
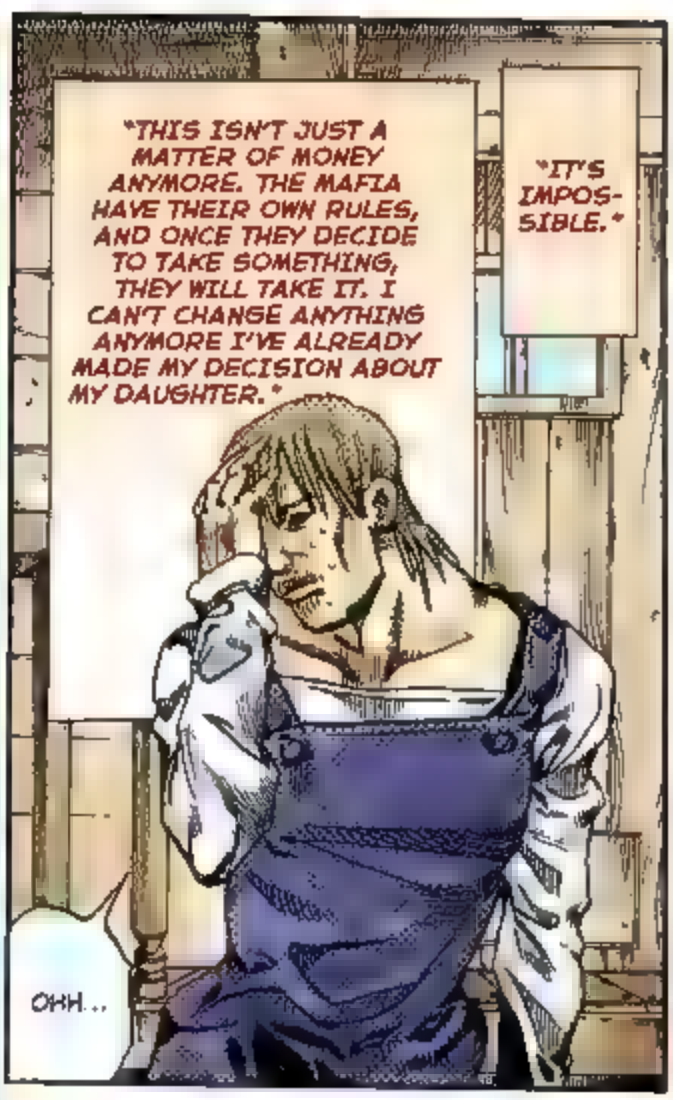
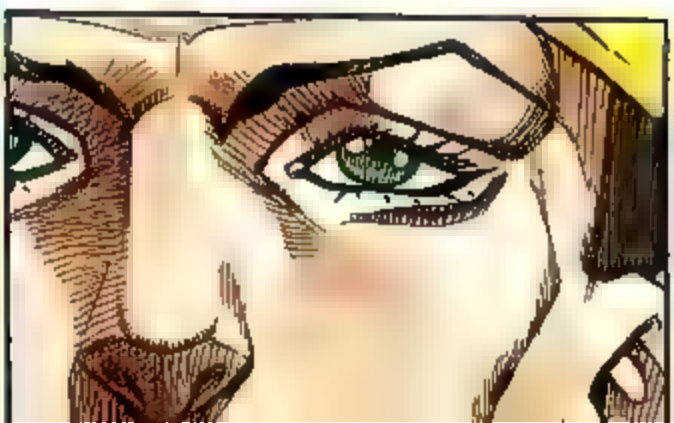

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS LUCY'S FATHER'S DETERMINATION AS A PARENT TO SAVE LUCY FROM THIS PREDICAMENT HE EXPLAINED THAT HE KNEW A THING OR TWO ABOUT HOW THE MAFIA OPERATED, AND SO THERE WAS STILL TIME. . ALL LUCY'S FATHER HAD TO TELL THEM WAS THAT LUCY WAS 'DAMAGED GOODS'.
STEEL, AFTER A FEW MOMENTS OF CONSIDERATION, QUIETLY REPLIED THAT...


"THIS ISN'T JUST A MATTER OF MONEY ANYMORE. THE MAFIA HAVE THEIR OWN RULES, AND ONCE THEY DECIDE TO TAKE SOMETHING, THEY WILL TAKE IT. I CAN'T CHANGE ANYTHING ANYMORE I'VE ALREADY MADE MY DECISION ABOUT MY DAUGHTER."
"IT'S IMPOSSIBLE."
OHH..



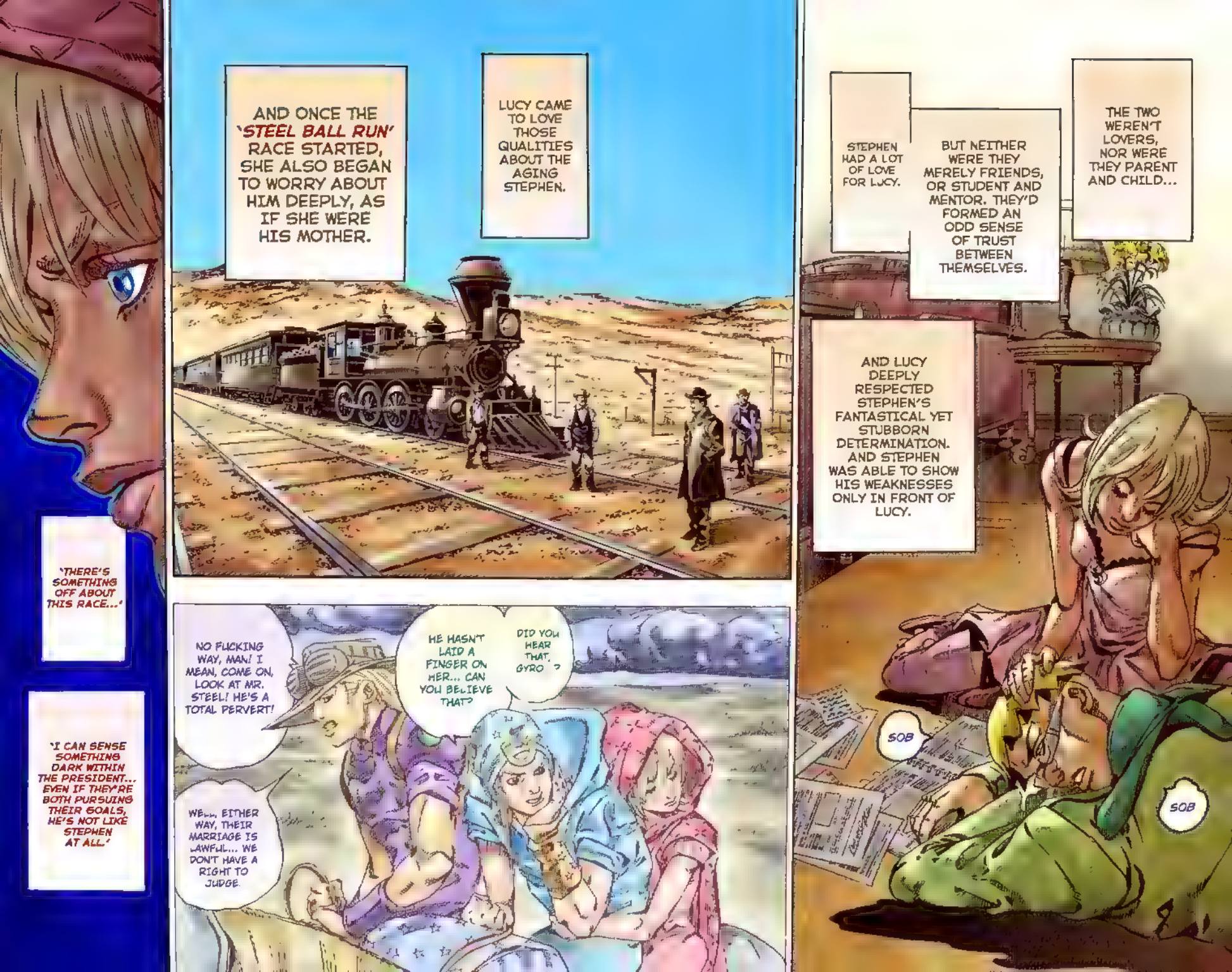
WHAT DID YOU SAY?! YOU BASTARD!
ARE YOU TRYING TO INSULT MY FAMILY?!
AND AFTER THAT, HE WOULD HANDLE THE REST OF THE DEALINGS WITH 'THEM'.
THAT STEEL HAD ALREADY 'LAWFULLY MARRIED' HER...

I'VE ALWAYS LIVED THINKING ONLY OF MYSELF... THOSE WERE UNHAPPY TIMES.
WHAT THEY WANT IS HER 'VIRGINITY' IF YOU LEAVE HER LIKE THIS, SHE'LL BE FORCED TO LIVE LIKE A PROSTITUTE, OR EVEN WORSE.
ONCE SHE SEES THAT KIND OF HELL, SHE WON'T EVEN LIVE TO BE 25.
LISTEN. OPEN YOUR EYES...

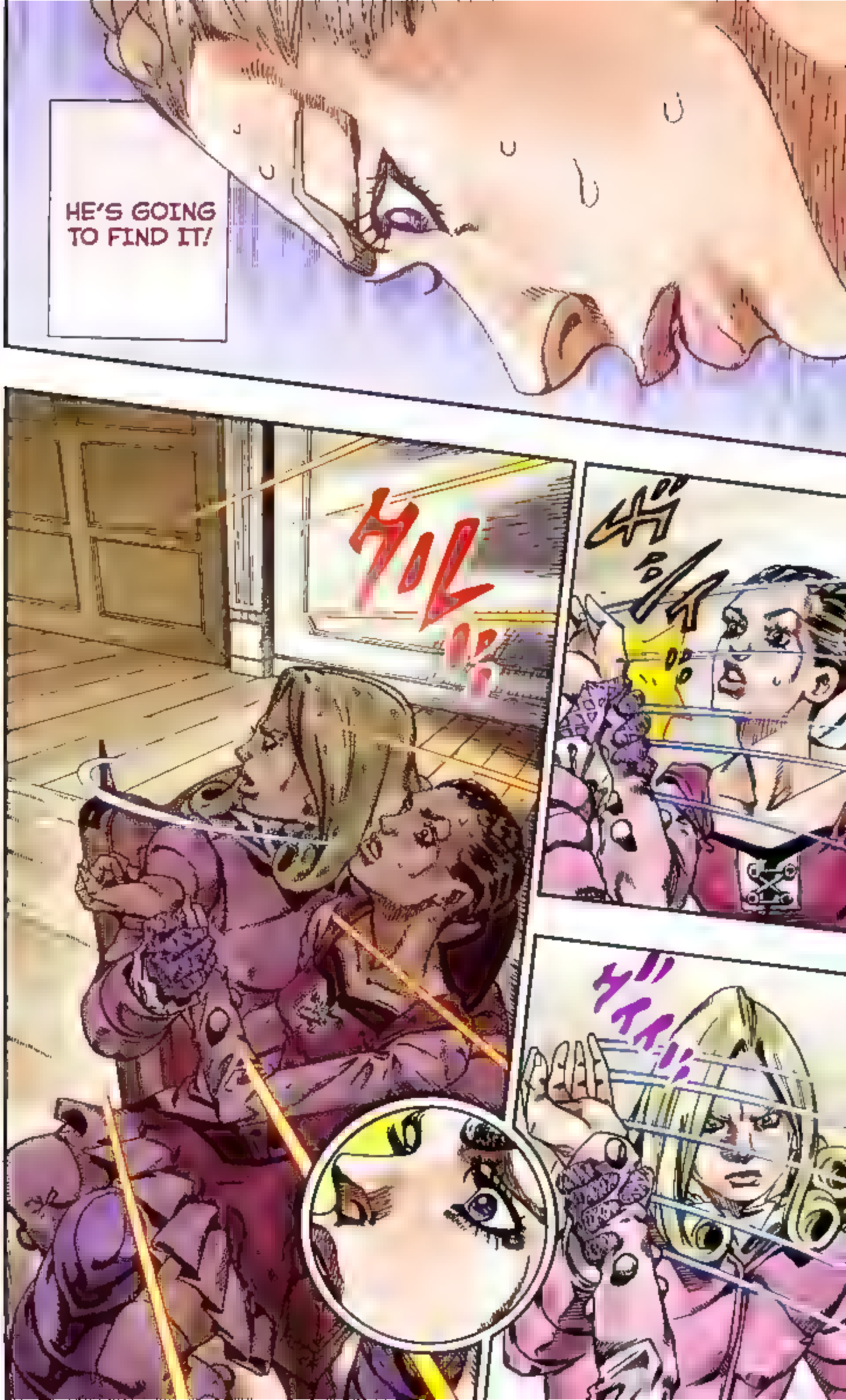
PLEASE, LET ME, STEPHEN STEEL, LOOK AFTER YOUR DAUGHTER FOR YOU.
I WANT TO HELP YOUR DAUGHTER... TO REPAY HER IS IMPERATIVE TO ME!
AND IT WAS YOUR DAUGHTER WHO SAVED ME FROM THAT UNHAPPY LIFE.
YES... NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ME.
BUT EVERYONE WILL BELIEVE YOU IF YOU SAY THAT YOUR DAUGHTER IS 'DAMAGED'.
THE MAFIA EVEN MORE SO.
YOU... YOU PERVERT! HOW THE HELL DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS!?
AND SHE BECAME 'LUCY STEEL'. AND ONE DAY, LUCY TOLD STEPHEN...
OHH
... AND IN THIS WAY, 'LUCY' WAS SAVED BY STEPHEN STEEL.
OHH...

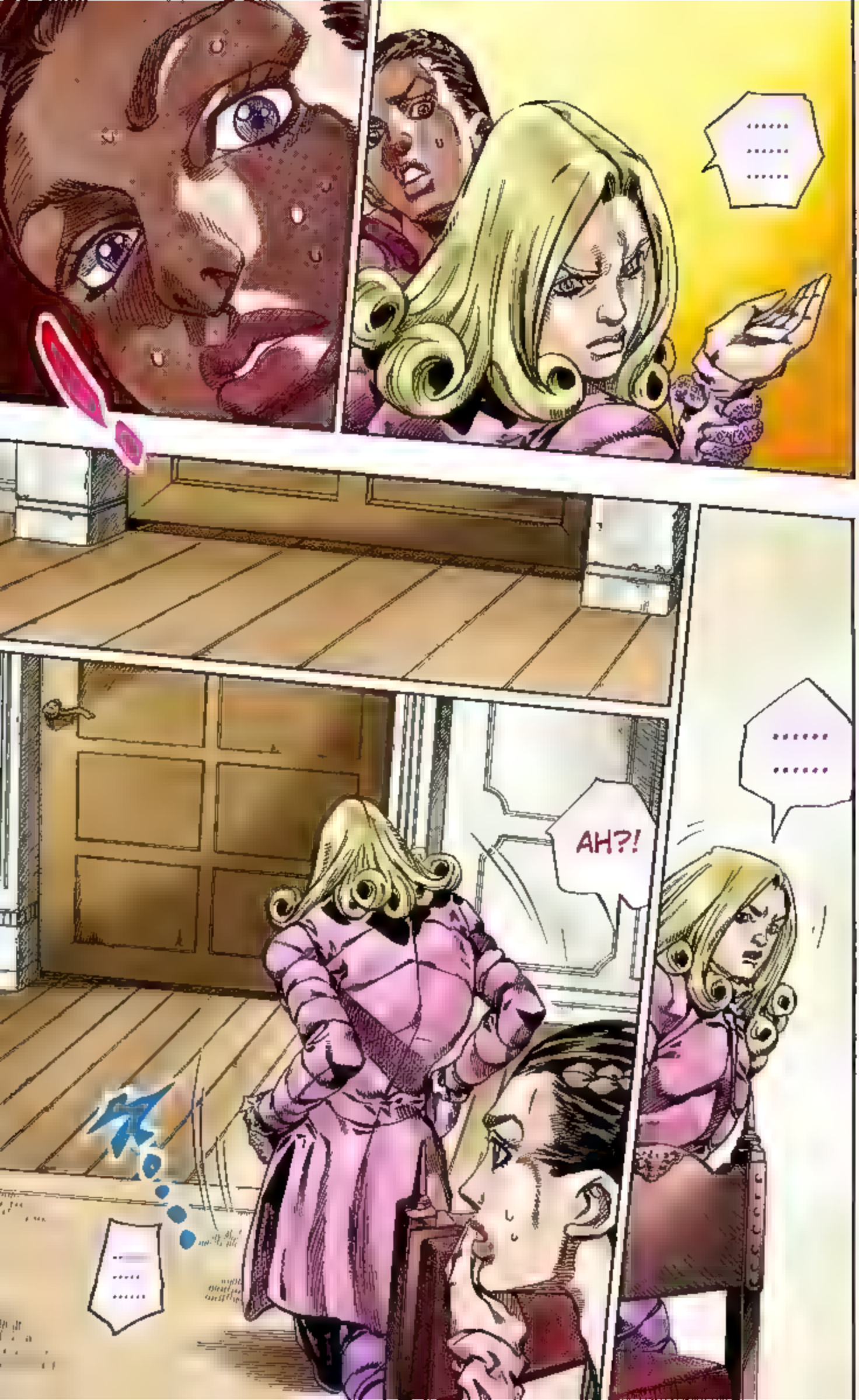
I DON'T MIND, SO..
YOU LOOKED SO MISERABLE, BUT YOU HAD AN INNOCENT STRENGTH ABOUT YOU, AS IF YOU COULD PULL A TRAIN WITH THAT STRENGTH, EVEN WITH YOUR SKINNY ARMS. THAT'S WHY I TALKED TO YOU.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I REMEMBER VERY CLEARLY THAT ONE TIME THAT I FIRST MET YOU, WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT, SO NEVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN.
LISTEN, LUCY.
PLEASE, MAKE ME YOUR REAL WIFE ONE DAY.
IF YOU'D LIKE
ONLY IF YOU'D LIKE, THOUGH

THIS IS WHAT I TOLD YOUR FATHER, BUT I DID THIS ALL FOR MYSELF.
THE ONE WHO REALLY SAVED YOU WAS YOUR FATHER, AND HIS DETERMINATION AS A PARENT TO PROTECT YOU.
DO NOT FORGET THAT.
I WON'T LAY A FINGER ON YOU, NOT NOW, NOT EVER... DON'T WORRY.
YOU SHOULD GO TO SCHOOL.
AND ONE DAY, YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE. AND WHEN YOU WANT TO LEAVE OUR HOUSE, YOU CAN DO SO ANYTIME.
.....
BUT PLEASE, SPARE ME THE TROUBLE OF YOUR FUTURE BOYFRIEND BEING A MAFIA MEMBER


'THERE'S SOMETHING OFF ABOUT THIS RACE...'
'I CAN SENSE SOMETHING DARK WITHIN THE PRESIDENT... EVEN IF THEY'RE BOTH PURSUING THEIR GOALS, HE'S NOT LIKE STEPHEN AT ALL.'
AND ONCE THE 'STEEL BALL RUN' RACE STARTED, SHE ALSO BEGAN TO WORRY ABOUT HIM DEEPLY, AS IF SHE WERE HIS MOTHER.
LUCY CAME TO LOVE THOSE QUALITIES ABOUT THE AGING STEPHEN.
NO FUCKING WAY, MAN! I MEAN, COME ON, LOOK AT MR. STEEL! HE'S A TOTAL PERVERT!
HE HASN'T LAID A FINGER ON HER... CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?
DID YOU HEAR THAT, GYRO ?
WELL, EITHER WAY, THEIR MARRIAGE IS AWFUL... WE DON'T HAVE A RIGHT TO JUDGE.
STEPHEN HAD A LOT OF LOVE FOR LUCY.
BUT NEITHER WERE THEY MERELY FRIENDS, OR STUDENT AND MENTOR. THEY'D FORMED AN ODD SENSE OF TRUST BETWEEN THEMSELVES.
THE TWO WEREN'T LOVERS, NOR WERE THEY PARENT AND CHILD...
AND LUCY DEEPLY RESPECTED STEPHEN'S FANTASTICAL YET STUBBORN DETERMINATION. AND STEPHEN WAS ABLE TO SHOW HIS WEAKNESSES ONLY IN FRONT OF LUCY.
SOB
SOB

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
DID SOMETHING... JUST FALL ON THE FLOOR?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT SCARLET?


HE'S GOING TO FIND IT!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AH?!
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CLACK
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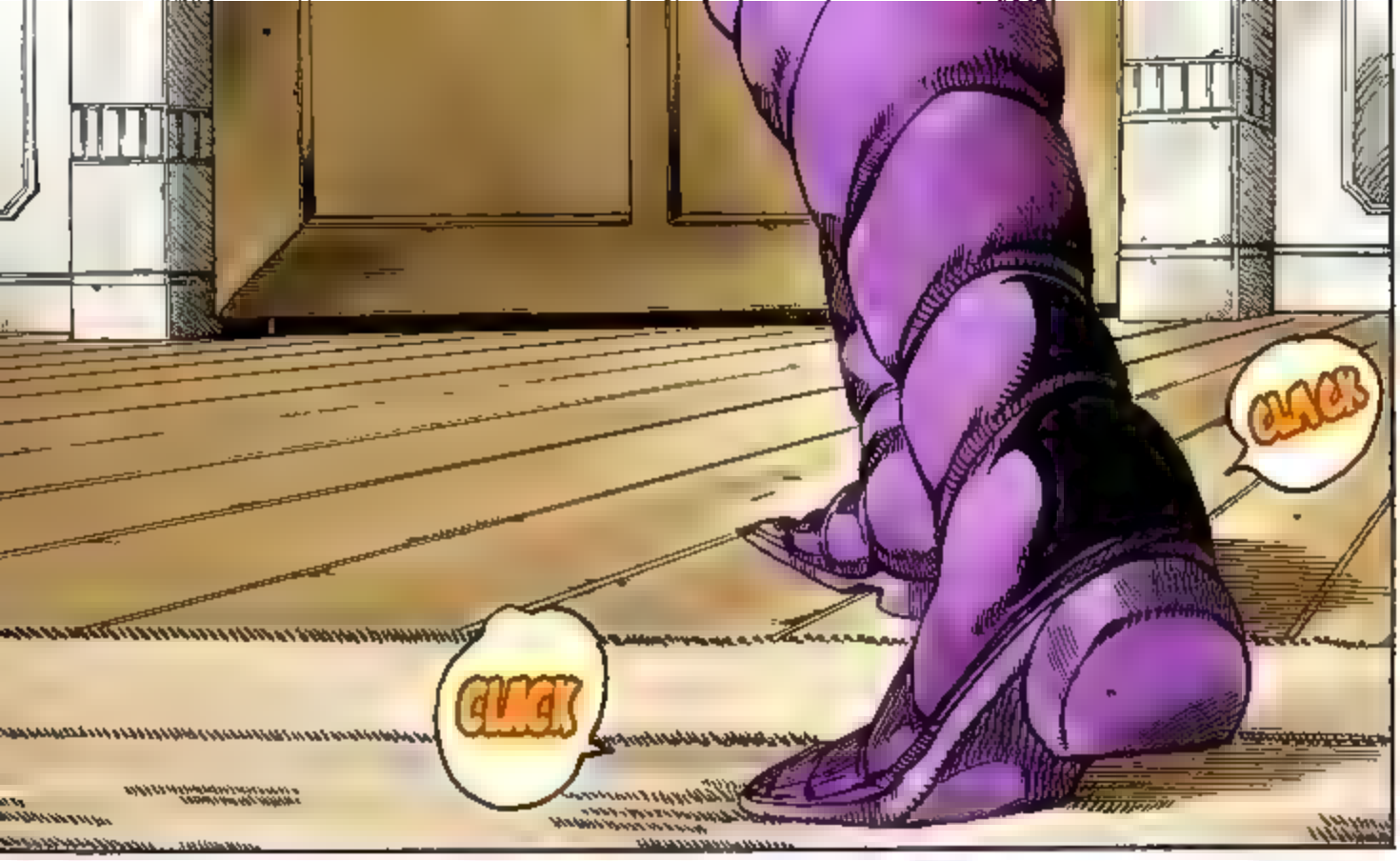
CLICK
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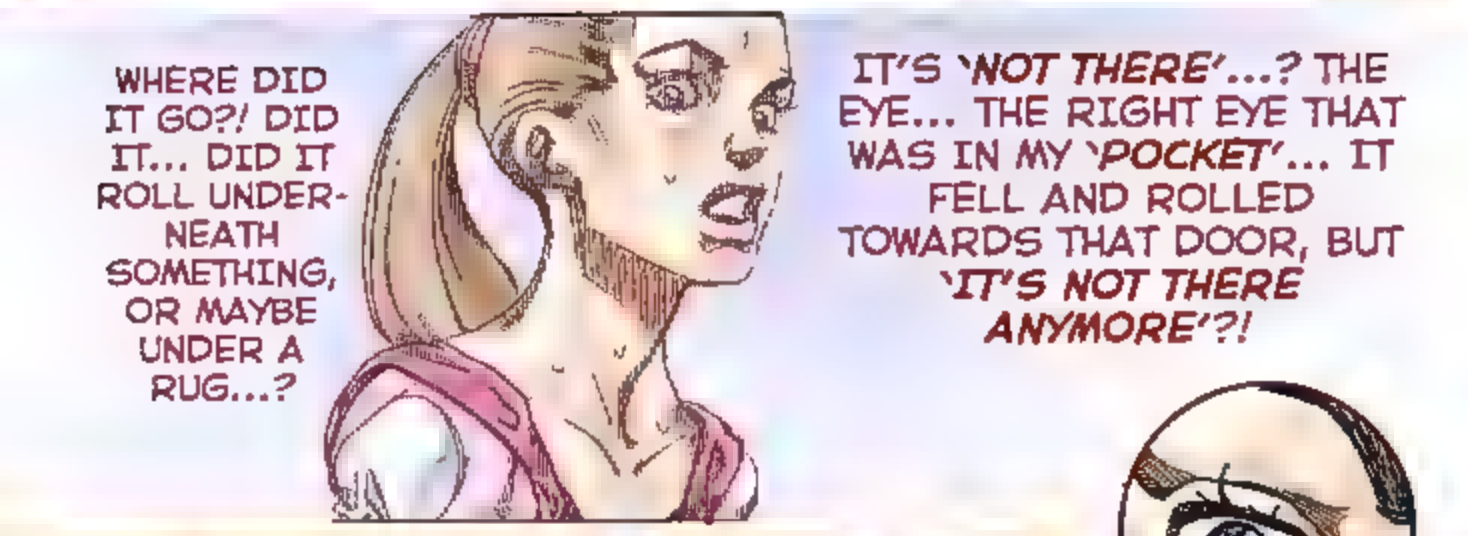
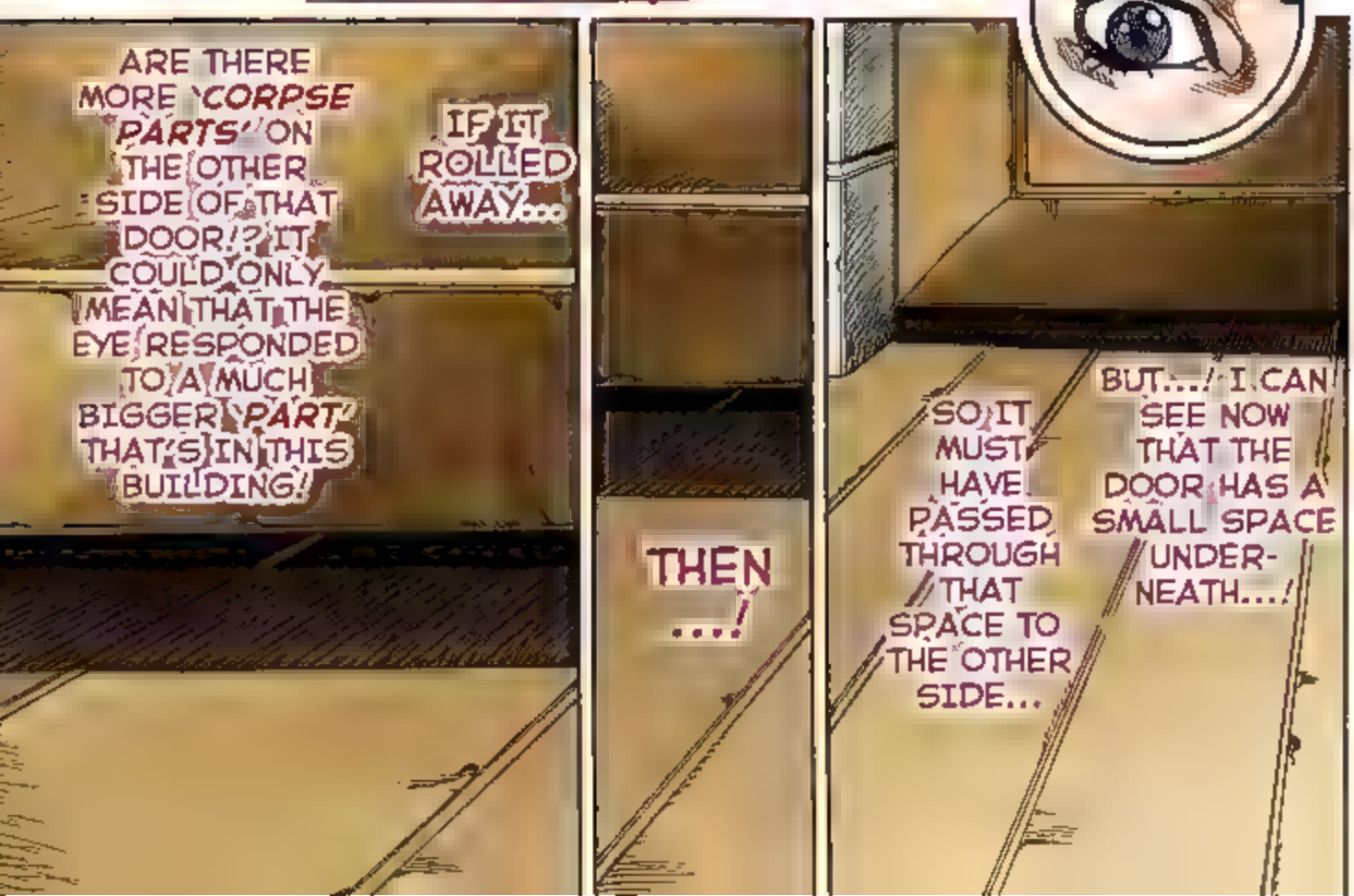
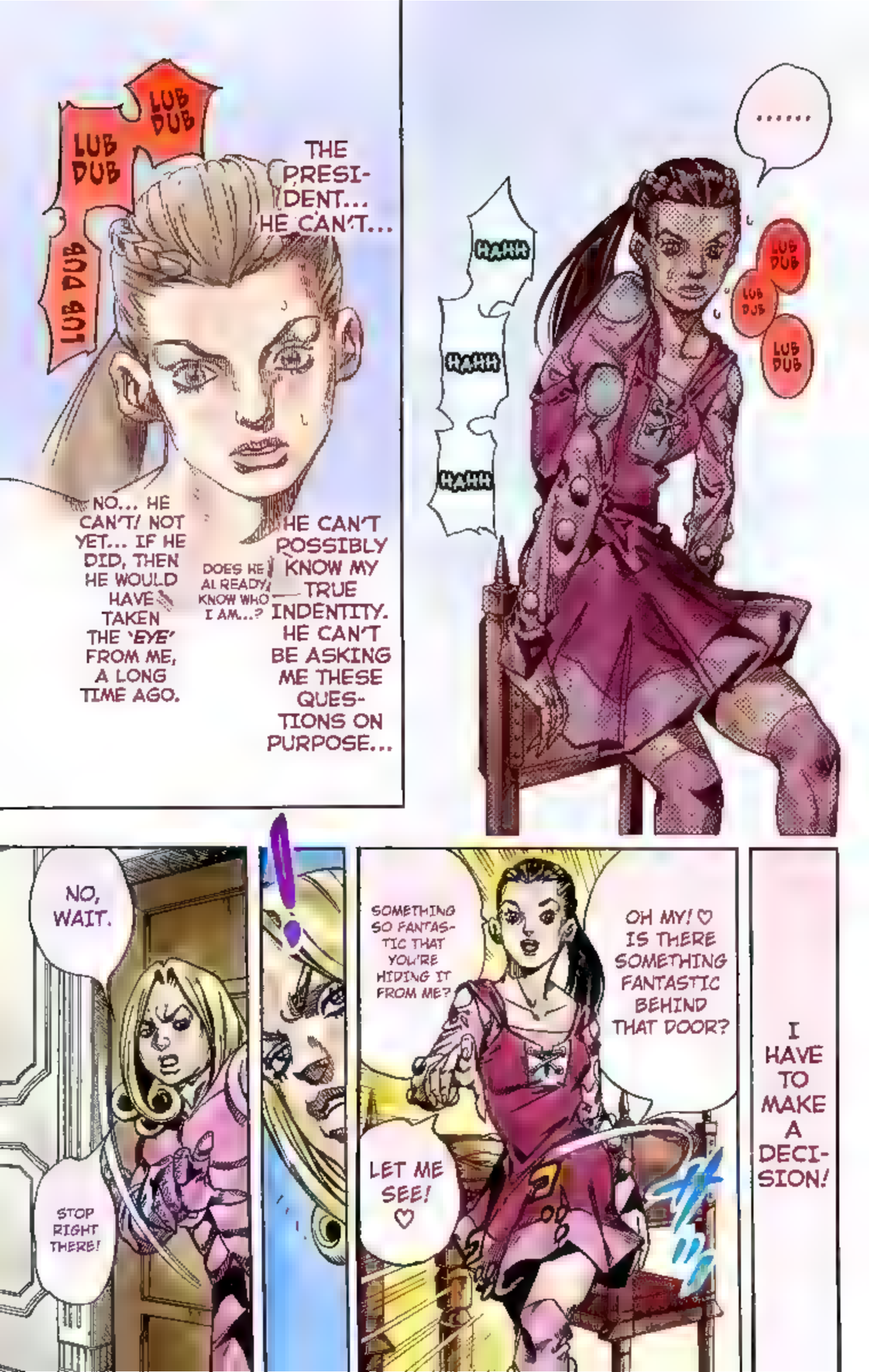
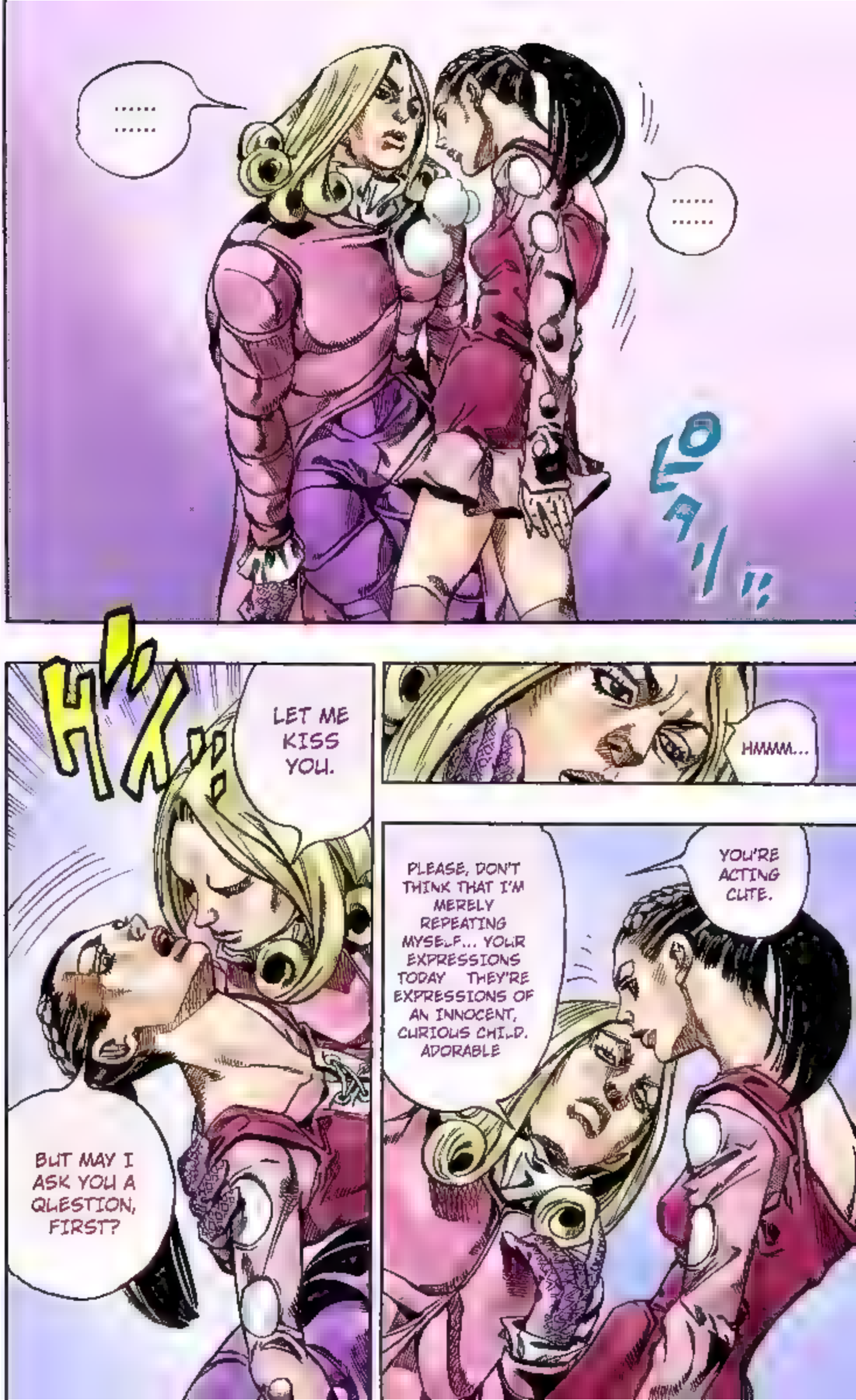

WHERE DID IT GO?! DID IT... DID IT ROLL UNDER-NEATH SOMETHING, OR MAYBE UNDER A RUG...?
IT'S 'NOT THERE'...? THE EYE... THE RIGHT EYE THAT WAS IN MY 'POCKET'... IT FELL AND ROLLED TOWARDS THAT DOOR, BUT 'IT'S NOT THERE ANYMORE'?!


ARE THERE MORE 'CORPSE PARTS' ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR!? IT COULD ONLY MEAN THAT THE EYE RESPONDED TO A MUCH BIGGER 'PART' THAT'S IN THIS BUILDING!
IF IT ROLLED AWAY...
THEN ...!
SO IT MUST HAVE PASSED THROUGH THAT SPACE TO THE OTHER SIDE...
BUT...! I CAN SEE NOW THAT THE DOOR HAS A SMALL SPACE UNDER-NEATH...!

LUB DUB
LUB DUB
LUB DUB
LUB DUB
LUB DUB
LUB DUB
WHAT WERE YOU DOING WHILE YOU WERE HOLDING MY FACE IN PLACE?
I ASKED YOU WHAT FELL ONTO THE GROUND.
SCARLET
ANSWER ME! YOU WERE LOOKING AT THAT DOOR, WEREN'T YOU?
SCARLET
ARE YOU SO INTRIGUED BY WHAT COULD BE BEHIND THAT DOOR?


LUB DUB
LUB DUB
LUB DUB
THE PRESI-DENT... HE CAN'T...
NO... HE CAN'T! NOT YET... IF HE DID, THEN HE WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE 'EYE' FROM ME, A LONG TIME AGO.
DOES HE ALREADY KNOW WHO I AM...?
HE CAN'T POSSIBLY KNOW MY TRUE INDENTITY. HE CAN'T BE ASKING ME THESE QUES-TIONS ON PURPOSE...
.....
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
LUB DUB
LUB DUB
LUB DUB
NO, WAIT.
STOP RIGHT THERE!
SOMETHING SO FANTAS-TIC THAT YOU'RE HIDING IT FROM ME?
OH MY! ♡ IS THERE SOMETHING FANTASTIC BEHIND THAT DOOR?
LET ME SEE! ♡
I HAVE TO MAKE A DECI-SION!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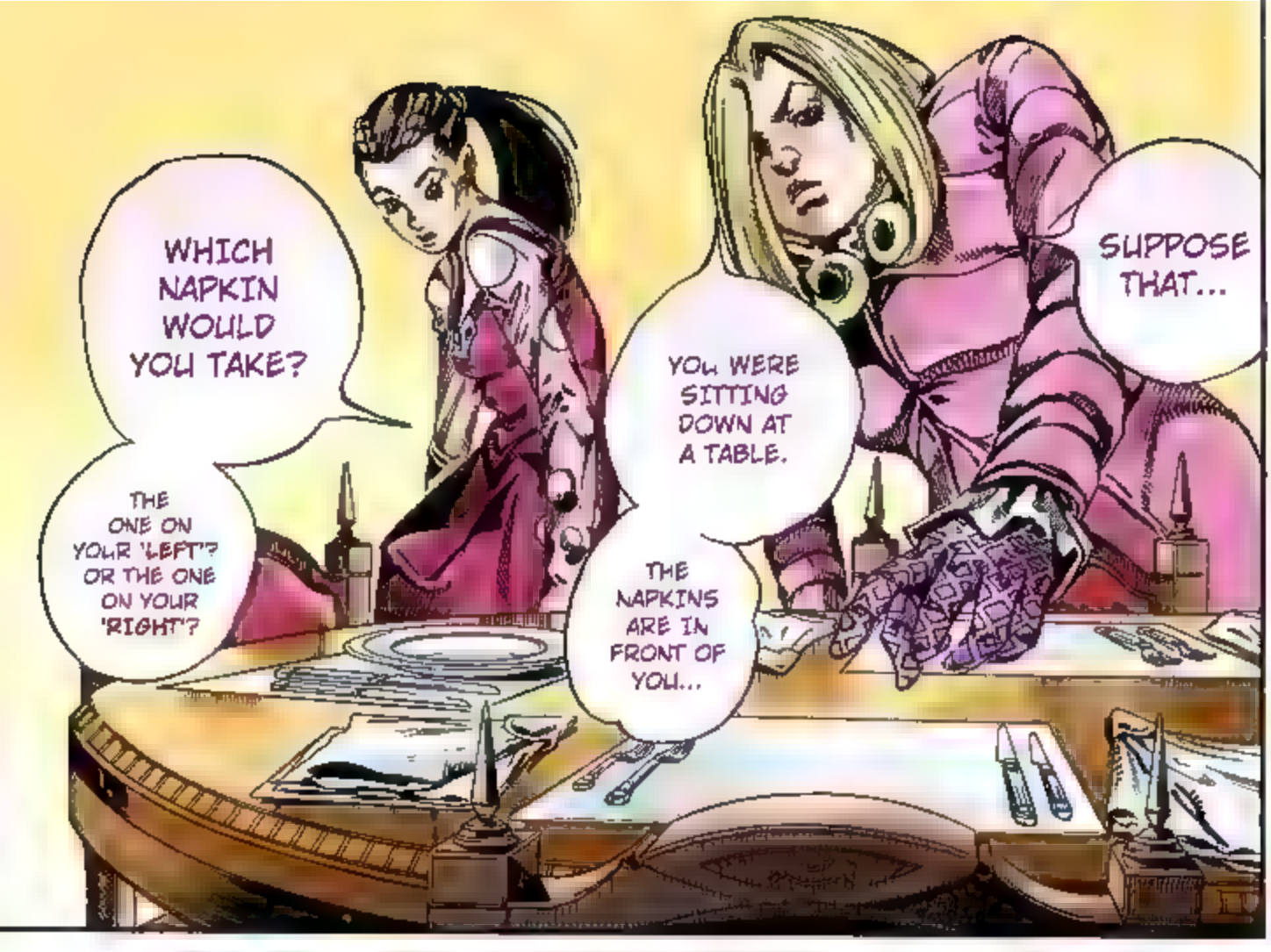
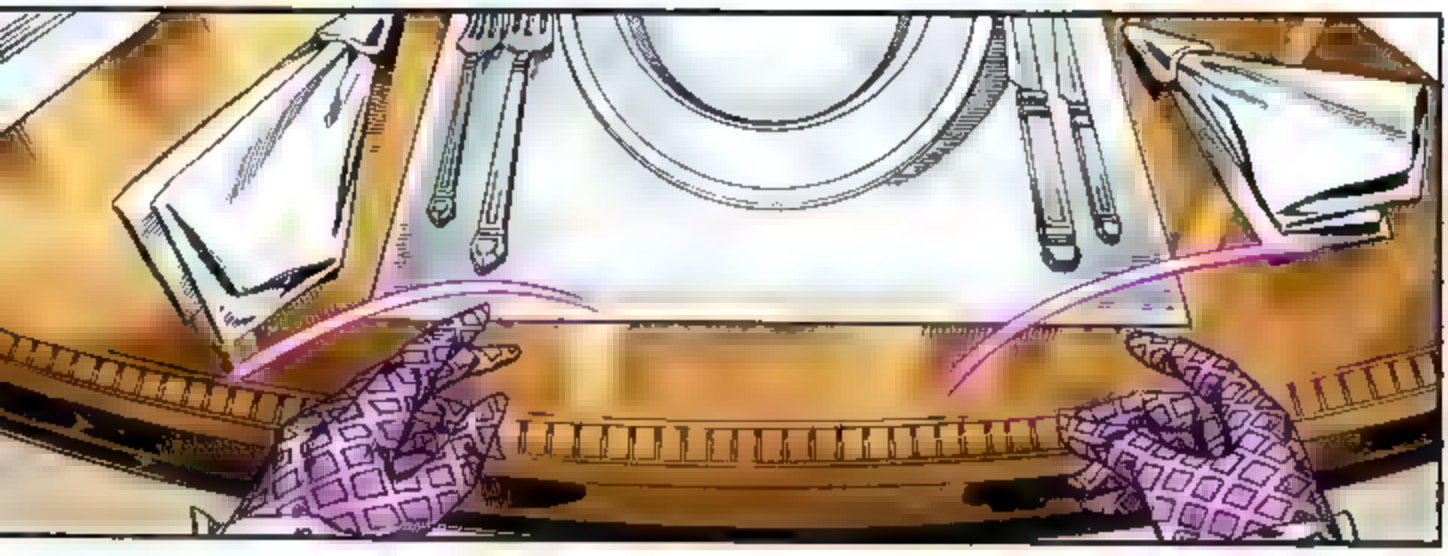
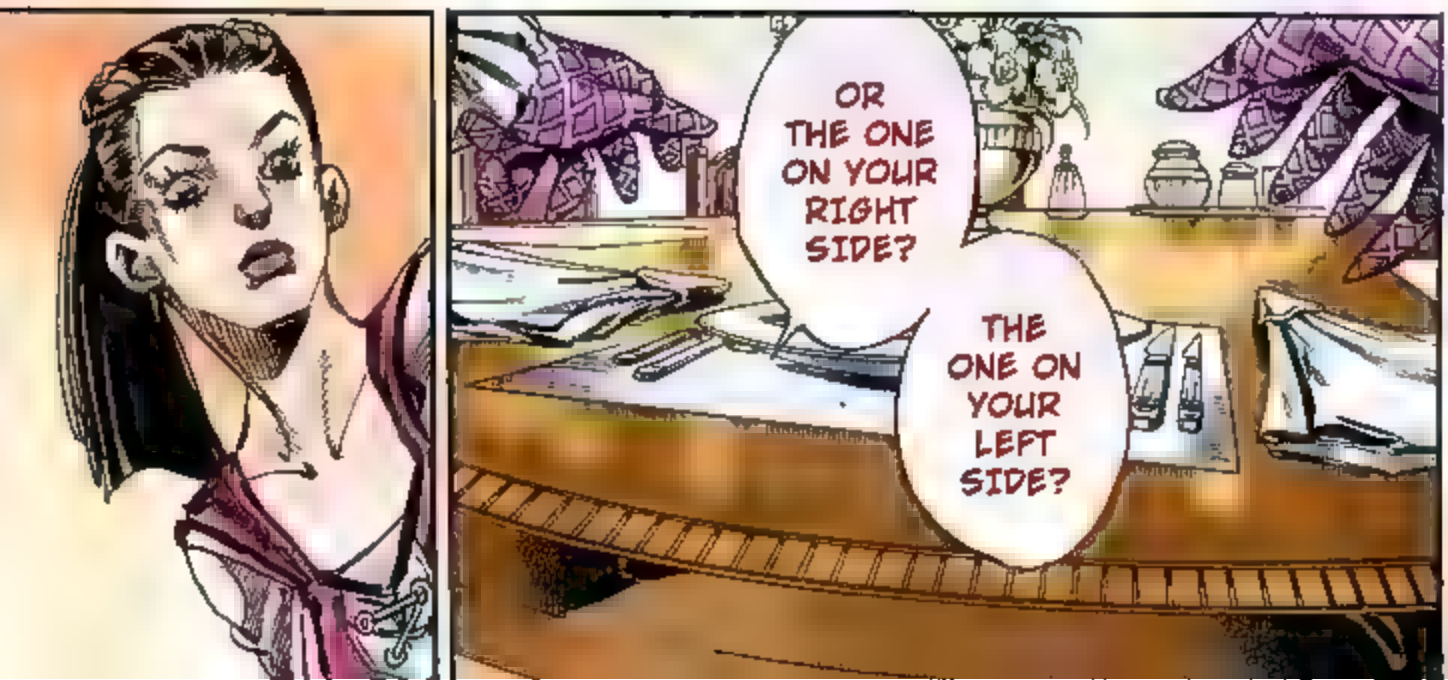
LOVE!!
HA!!
LET ME KISS YOU.
BUT MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION, FIRST?
HMMM...
PLEASE, DON'T THINK THAT I'M MERELY REPEATING MYSELF... YOUR EXPRESSIONS TODAY THEY'RE EXPRESSIONS OF AN INNOCENT, CURIOUS CHILD. ADORABLE
YOU'RE ACTING CUTE.

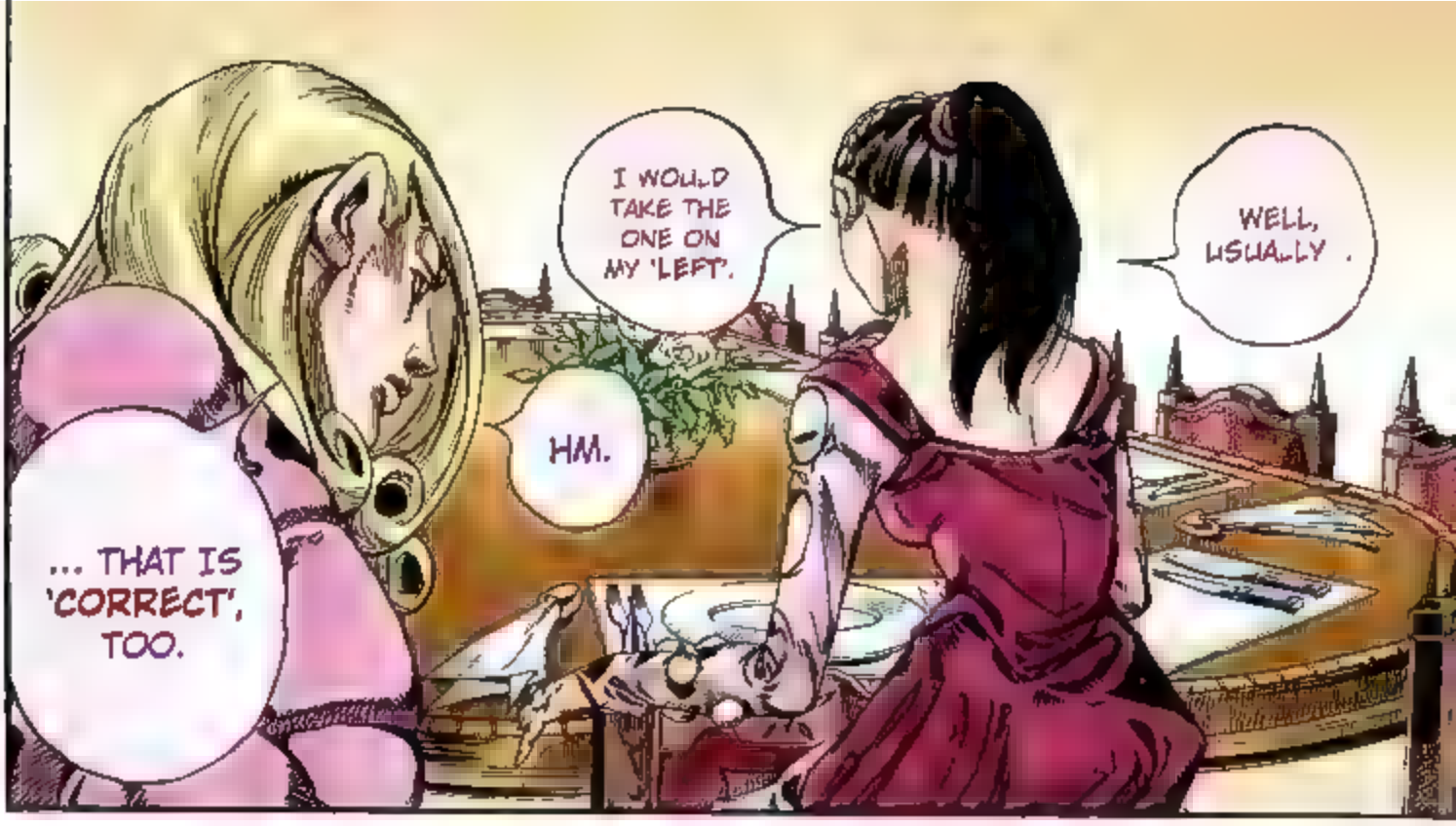
NO .
ABOUT THE 'STEEL BALL RUN' RACE
.....
.....
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT'S BEYOND THAT DOOR, THERE'S NOTHING THERE THAT'LL INTEREST YOU.
THIS MIGHT BE DISRESPECT-FUL TO THE PARTICIPANTS, BUT THIS IS JUST A 'RACING GAME'
IF YOU ASK ME..
ABOUT THE RACE. ?
. WHAT OF IT?
SOMEONE LIKE YOU, THE PRESIDENT OF A COUNTRY
YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THIS RACE AND TRAVEL-ING ACROSS THE COUNTRY SINCE IT STARTED!
WHY WOULD YOU BE SO INVESTED IN SOMETHING THAT'S MERELY FOR SPORT?

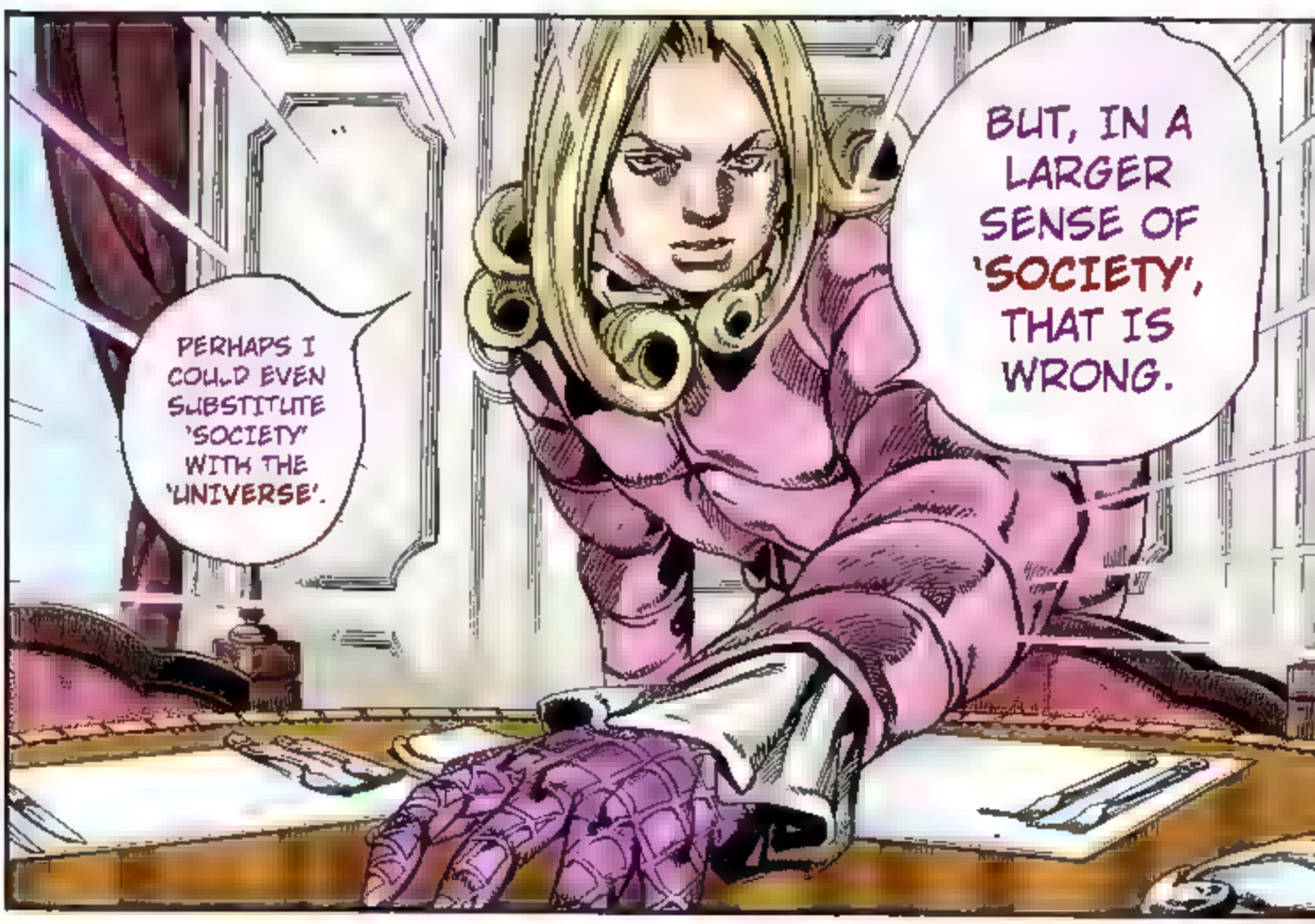
YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL FOR TWO MONTHS
IS THIS RACE REALLY SO VALUABLE?
DIDN'T I EXPLAIN THAT BEFORE? THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS WATCHING THIS RACE IT'S POPULAR.
WHEN THIS RACE ENDS... I'LL EXPLAIN TO YOU JUST WHAT SORT OF THINGS ARE 'POSSIBLE ON THIS EARTH'.
HMPH! A GOOD QUESTION.
FINE, THEN.
THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY.

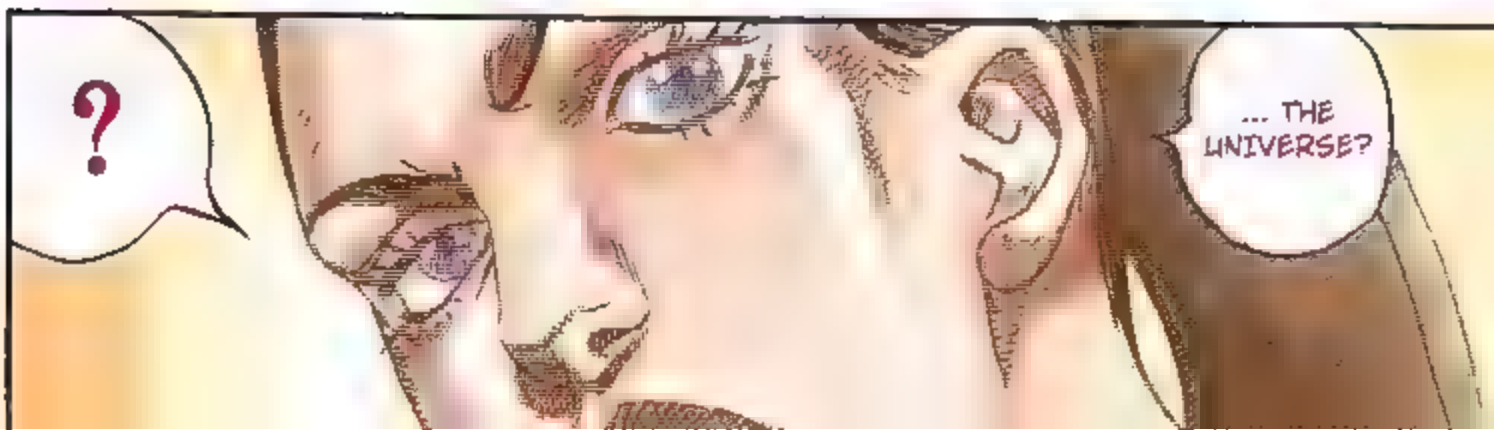

WHICH NAPKIN WOULD YOU TAKE?
THE ONE ON YOUR 'LEFT'? OR THE ONE ON YOUR 'RIGHT'?
YOU WERE SITTING DOWN AT A TABLE.
THE NAPKINS ARE IN FRONT OF YOU...
SUPPOSE THAT...

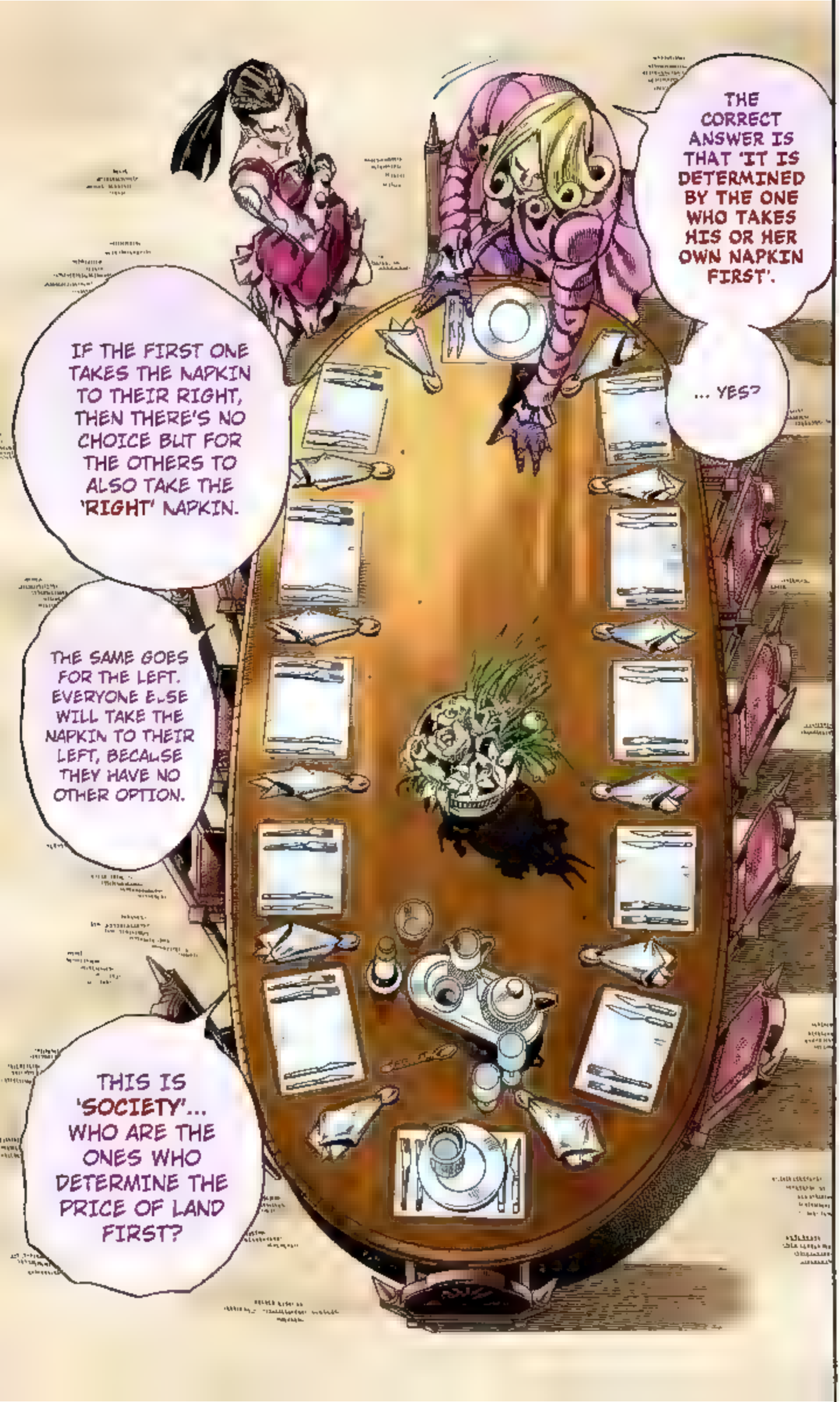



OR THE ONE ON YOUR RIGHT SIDE?
THE ONE ON YOUR LEFT SIDE?

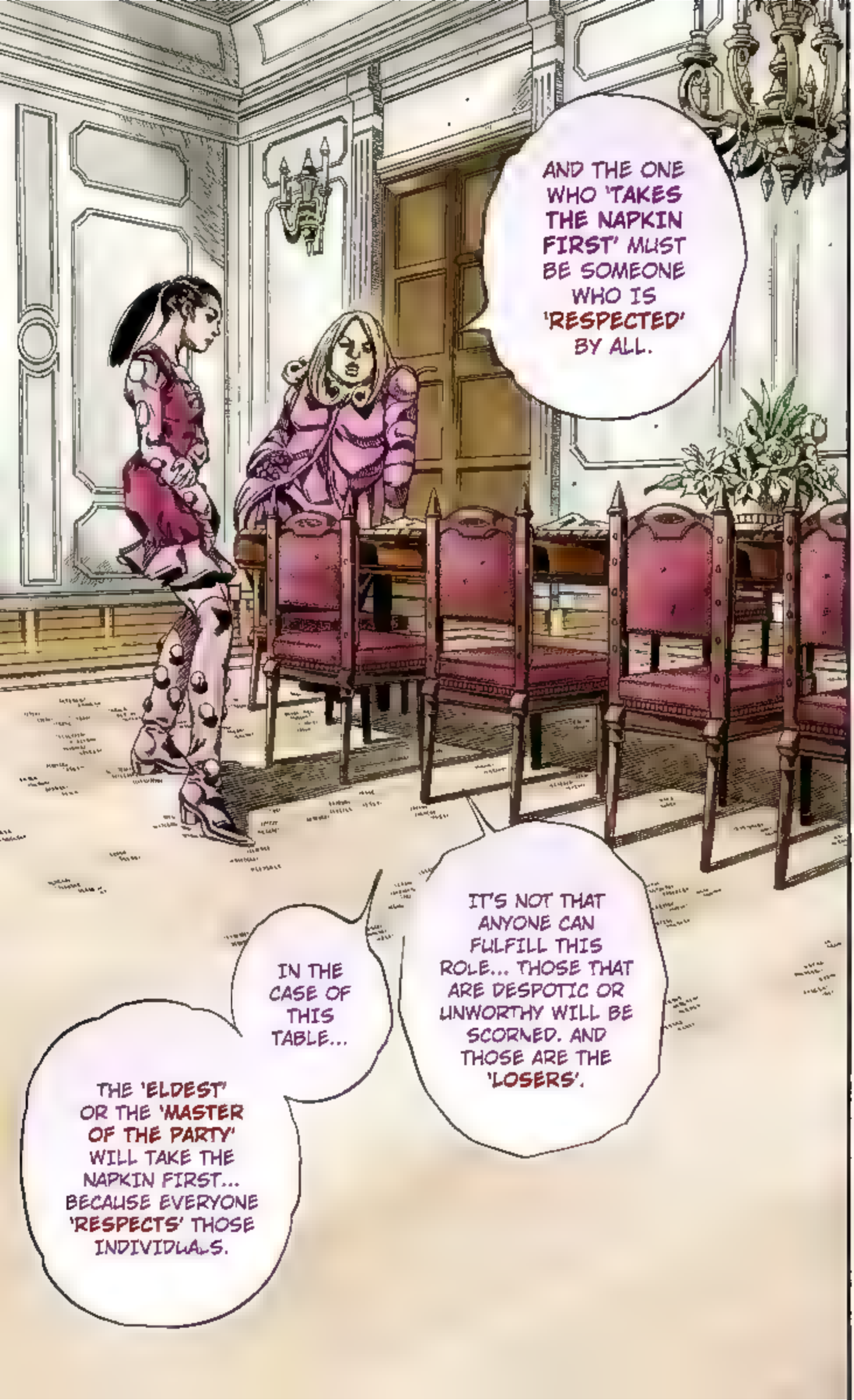

I WOULD TAKE THE ONE ON MY 'LEFT'.
WELL, USUALLY .
HM.
... THAT IS 'CORRECT', TOO.

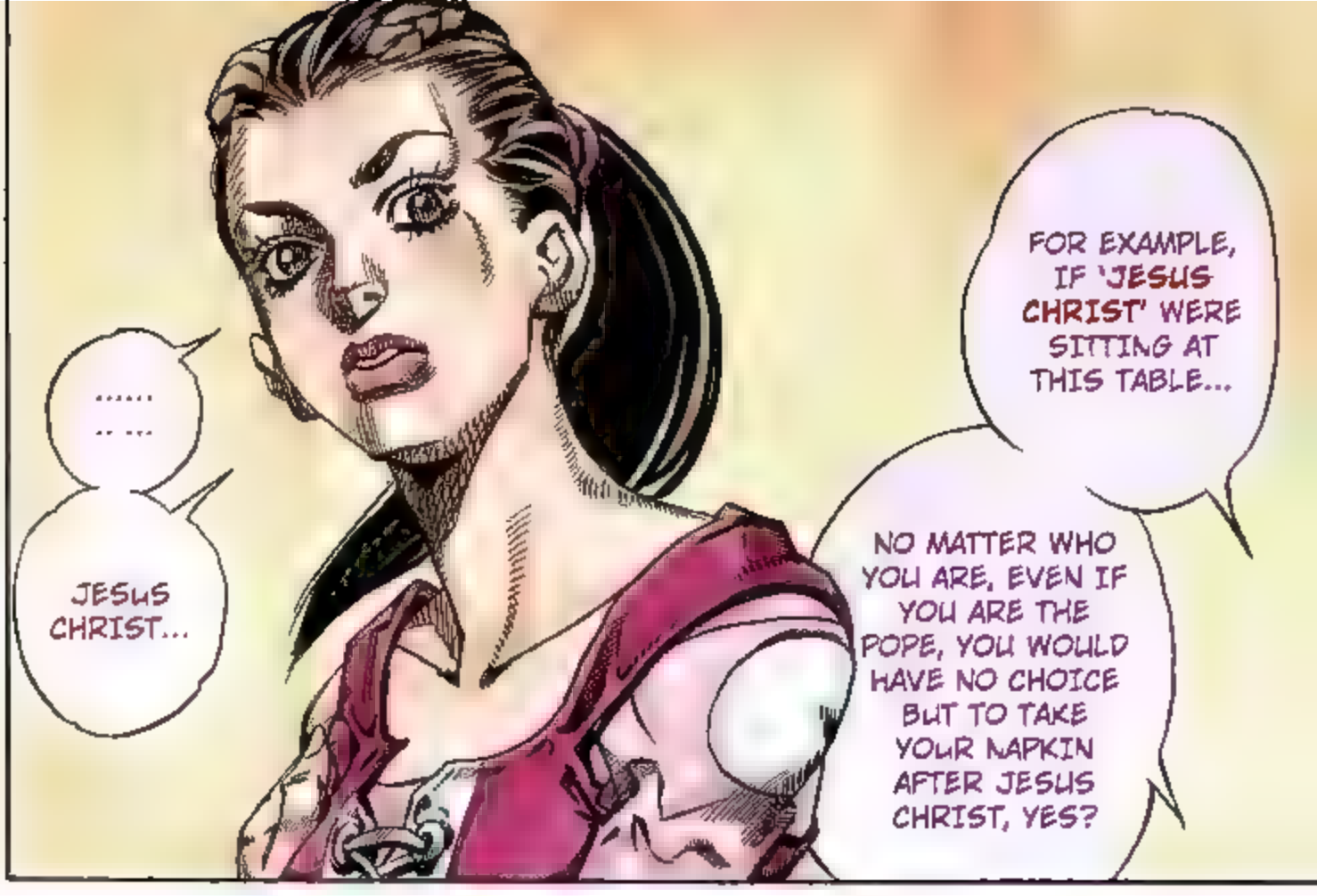

BUT, IN A LARGER SENSE OF 'SOCIETY', THAT IS WRONG.
PERHAPS I COULD EVEN SUBSTITUTE 'SOCIETY' WITH THE 'UNIVERSE'.

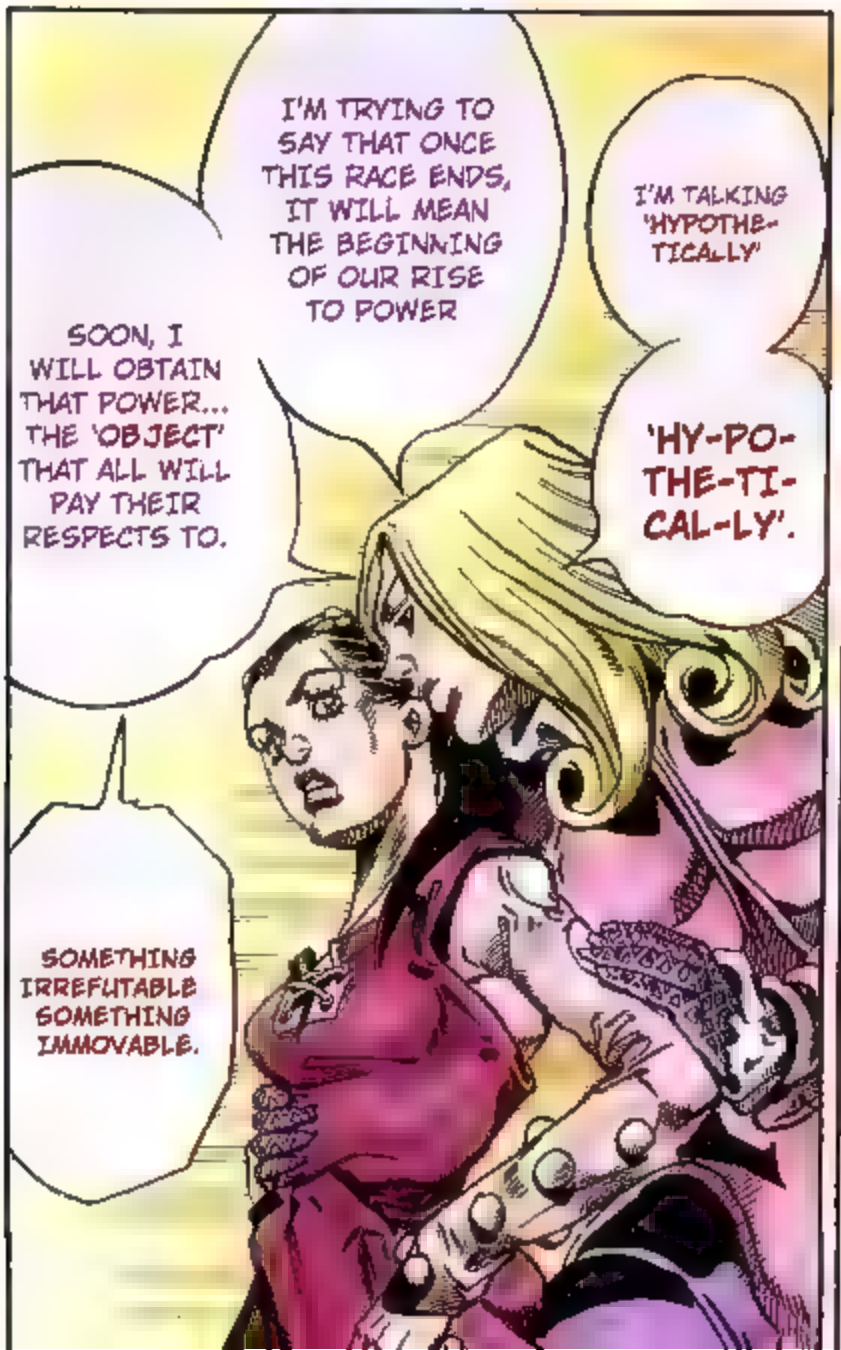

?
... THE UNIVERSE?


THE CORRECT ANSWER IS THAT 'IT IS DETERMINED BY THE ONE WHO TAKES HIS OR HER OWN NAPKIN FIRST'.
... YES?
IF THE FIRST ONE TAKES THE NAPKIN TO THEIR RIGHT, THEN THERE'S NO CHOICE BUT FOR THE OTHERS TO ALSO TAKE THE 'RIGHT' NAPKIN.
THE SAME GOES FOR THE LEFT. EVERYONE ELSE WILL TAKE THE NAPKIN TO THEIR LEFT, BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO OTHER OPTION.
THIS IS 'SOCIETY'... WHO ARE THE ONES WHO DETERMINE THE PRICE OF LAND FIRST?

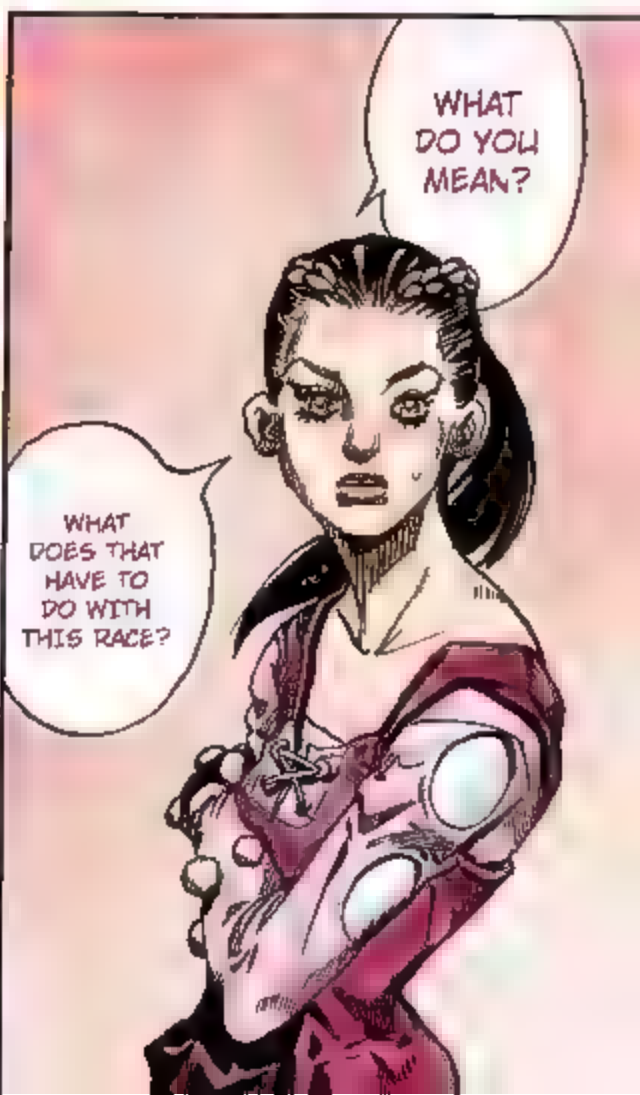
DID WE ALL DO IT, BECAUSE THIS IS A REPUBLIC? OR WAS IT ARBITRARY?
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE WHO DETERMINED THE VALUE OF MONEY, FIRST.
THE SIZE OF THE RAILS ON A TRAIN TRACK? THE MAGNITUDE OF ELECTRICITY? LAWS AND REGULATIONS? WHO WAS THE FIRST ONE TO DETERMINE THOSE THINGS?
NO!
THE RULES OF THIS WORLD ARE DETERMINED BY THE SAME PRINCIPLE AS 'RIGHT, OR LEFT?'! IN A SOCIETY LIKE THIS TABLE, A STATE OF EQUILIBRIUM, ONCE ONE MAKES THE FIRST MOVE, EVERY-ONE MUST FOLLOW!
THE ONE WHO TOOK THE NAPKIN FIRST DETERMINED ALL OF THESE THINGS!
IN EVERY ERA...
THIS WORLD HAS BEEN OPERATING BY THIS NAPKIN PRINCIPLE.

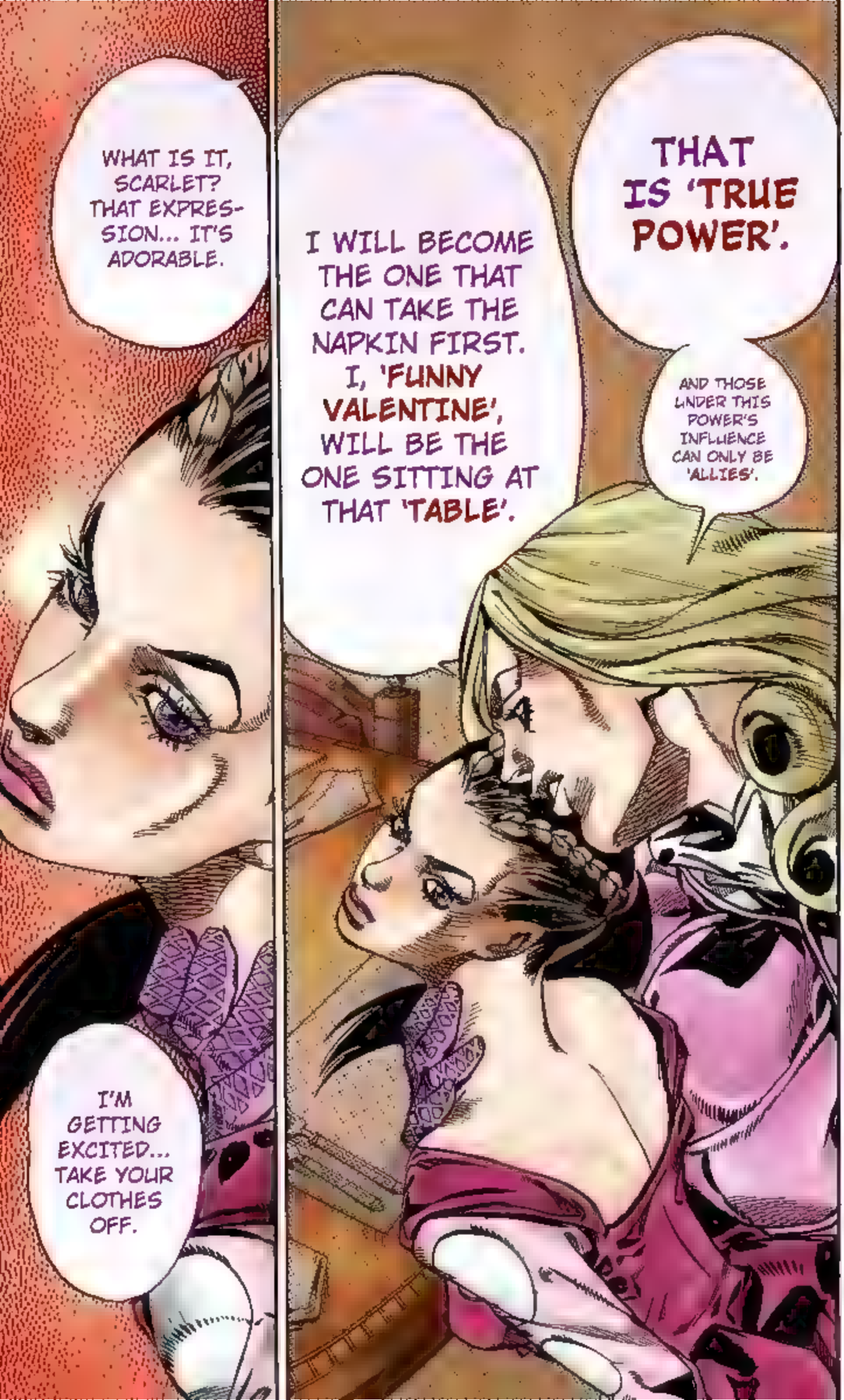

AND THE ONE WHO 'TAKES THE NAPKIN FIRST' MUST BE SOMEONE WHO IS 'RESPECTED' BY ALL.
IT'S NOT THAT ANYONE CAN FULFILL THIS ROLE... THOSE THAT ARE DESPOTIC OR UNWORTHY WILL BE SCORNED. AND THOSE ARE THE 'LOSERS'.
IN THE CASE OF THIS TABLE...
THE 'ELDEST' OR THE 'MASTER OF THE PARTY' WILL TAKE THE NAPKIN FIRST... BECAUSE EVERYONE 'RESPECTS' THOSE INDIVIDUALS.


FOR EXAMPLE, IF 'JESUS CHRIST' WERE SITTING AT THIS TABLE...
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, EVEN IF YOU ARE THE POPE, YOU WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE YOUR NAPKIN AFTER JESUS CHRIST, YES?
.....
.. ...
JESUS CHRIST...

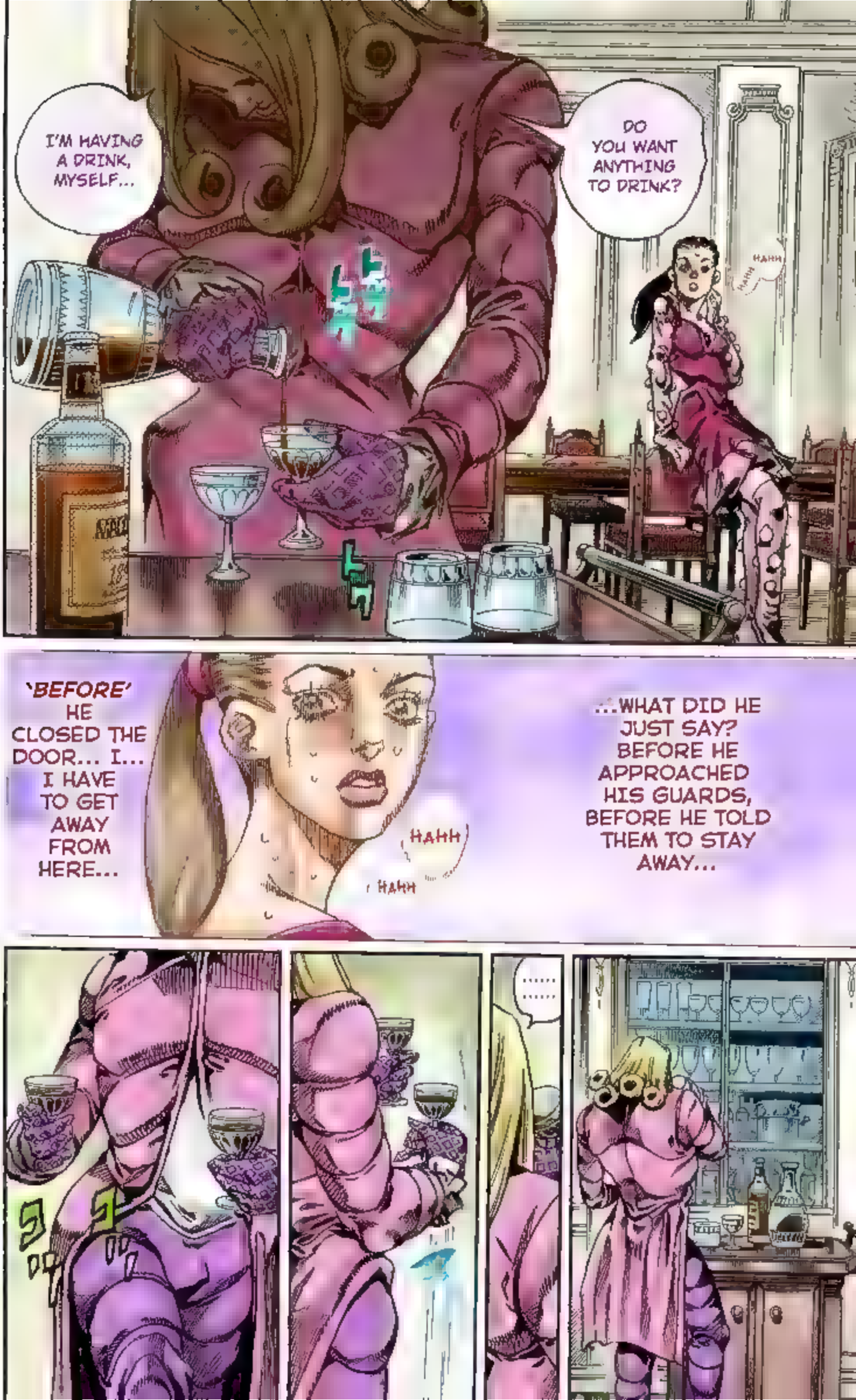

I'M TRYING TO SAY THAT ONCE THIS RACE ENDS, IT WILL MEAN THE BEGINNING OF OUR RISE TO POWER
I'M TALKING 'HYPOTHETICALLY'
SOON, I WILL OBTAIN THAT POWER... THE 'OBJECT' THAT ALL WILL PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO.
'HY-PO-THE-TI-CAL-LY'.
SOMETHING IRREFUTABLE SOMETHING IMMOVABLE.

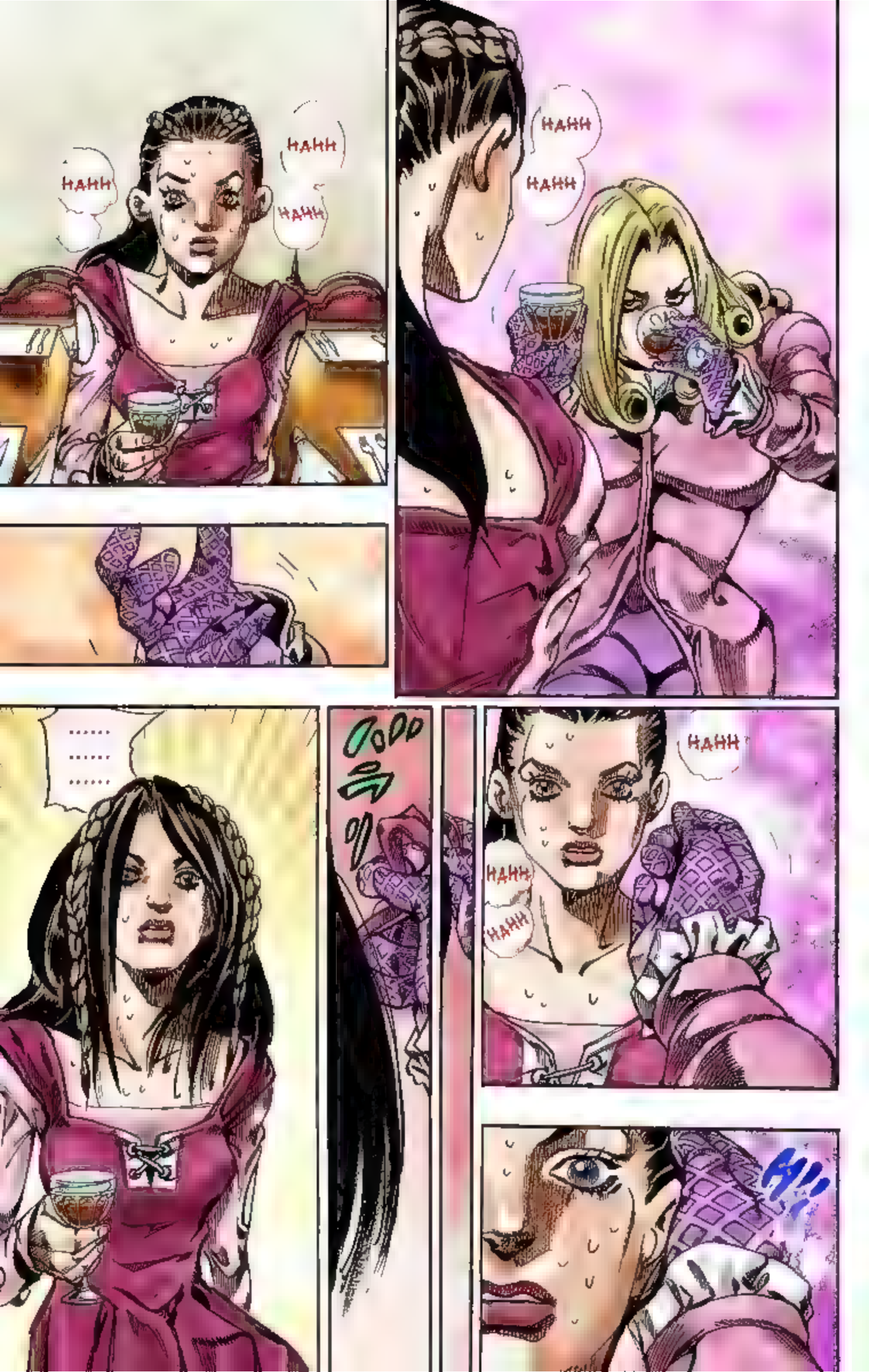
?

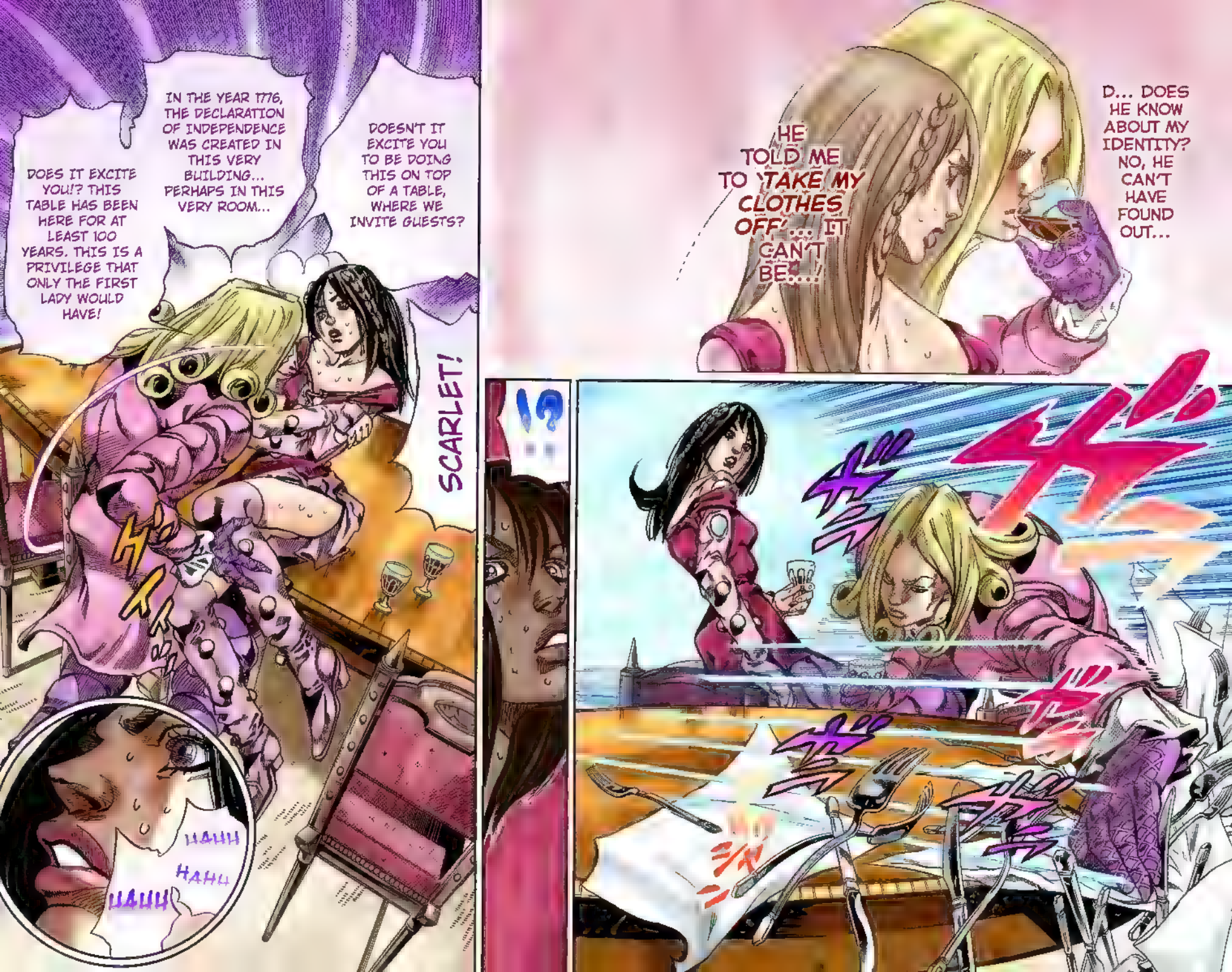

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THIS RACE?


WHAT IS IT, SCARLET? THAT EXPRESSION... IT'S ADORABLE.
I'M GETTING EXCITED... TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF.
I WILL BECOME THE ONE THAT CAN TAKE THE NAPKIN FIRST. I, 'FUNNY VALENTINE', WILL BE THE ONE SITTING AT THAT 'TABLE'.
THAT IS 'TRUE POWER'.
AND THOSE UNDER THIS POWER'S INFLUENCE CAN ONLY BE 'ALLIES'.

WHAT?
.....
.....
.....
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
I WANT YOU TO LEAVE YOU TWO OF US ALONE FOR A WHILE.
I DON'T WANT ANY INTER-RUPTIONS FOR THE NEXT 30 MINUTES.


I'M HAVING A DRINK, MYSELF...
DO YOU WANT ANYTHING TO DRINK?
HAHH
HAHH
'BEFORE' HE CLOSED THE DOOR... I... I HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE...
HAHH
HAHH
...WHAT DID HE JUST SAY? BEFORE HE APPROACHED HIS GUARDS, BEFORE HE TOLD THEM TO STAY AWAY...
.....
.....


HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
.....
.....
.....
HAHH
HAHH


DOES IT EXCITE YOU!? THIS TABLE HAS BEEN HERE FOR AT LEAST 100 YEARS. THIS IS A PRIVILEGE THAT ONLY THE FIRST LADY WOULD HAVE!
IN THE YEAR 1776, THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS CREATED IN THIS VERY BUILDING... PERHAPS IN THIS VERY ROOM...
DOESN'T IT EXCITE YOU TO BE DOING THIS ON TOP OF A TABLE, WHERE WE INVITE GUESTS?
SCARLET!
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HE TOLD ME TO TAKE MY CLOTHES OFF... IT CAN'T BE...!
D... DOES HE KNOW ABOUT MY IDENTITY? NO, HE CAN'T HAVE FOUND OUT...
!?
H!
H!!
H!!!
H!!!!

THESE OLD SCARS THAT I GOT FROM BEING TORTURED DURING MY DAYS AS A SOLDIER.
FOR SOME ODD REASON .. THEY'VE JUST STOPPED HURTING.
THESE WOUNDS... USUALLY, THEY TWINGE, STING...
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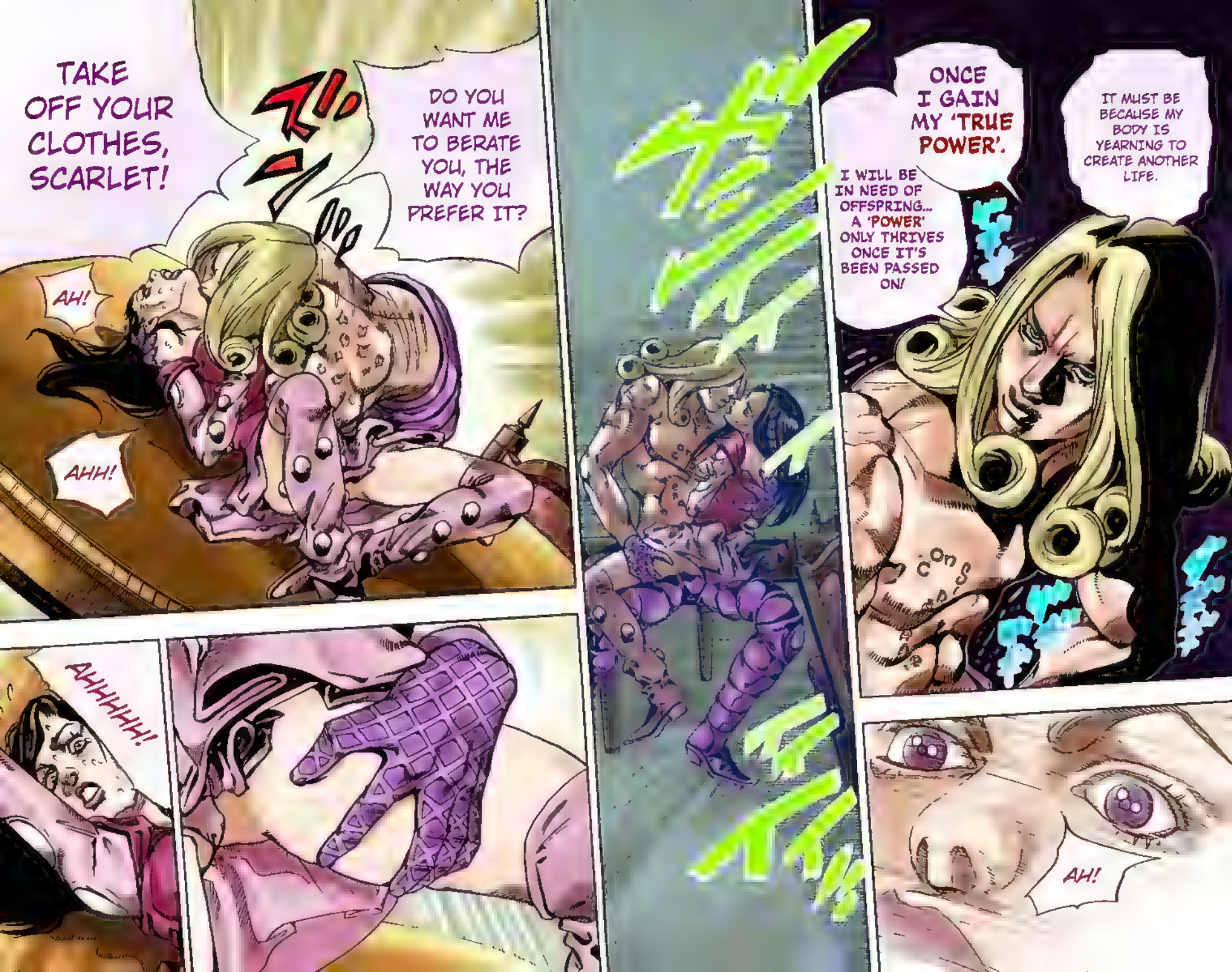
TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES, SCARLET!
DO YOU WANT ME TO BERATE YOU, THE WAY YOU PREFER IT?
AH!
AHH!
AHHHHH!
ONCE I GAIN MY 'TRUE POWER'.
I WILL BE IN NEED OF OFFSPRING... A 'POWER' ONLY THRIVES ONCE IT'S BEEN PASSED ON!
IT MUST BE BECAUSE MY BODY IS YEARNING TO CREATE ANOTHER LIFE.
AH!

AH! AHHH, AHHH!
AHHH!
OH...
ADORABLE!
SIMPLY ADOR-ABLE!
I CAN'T DO THIS...
I'M AT MY LIMIT!
AHHH!
AH!
IT WAS STUPID OF ME TO THINK THAT I COULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING ABOUT THE 'CORPSE'...
FROM THE VERY BEGIN-NING, I WAS POWER-LESS.
I'M AT MY 'LIMIT'.

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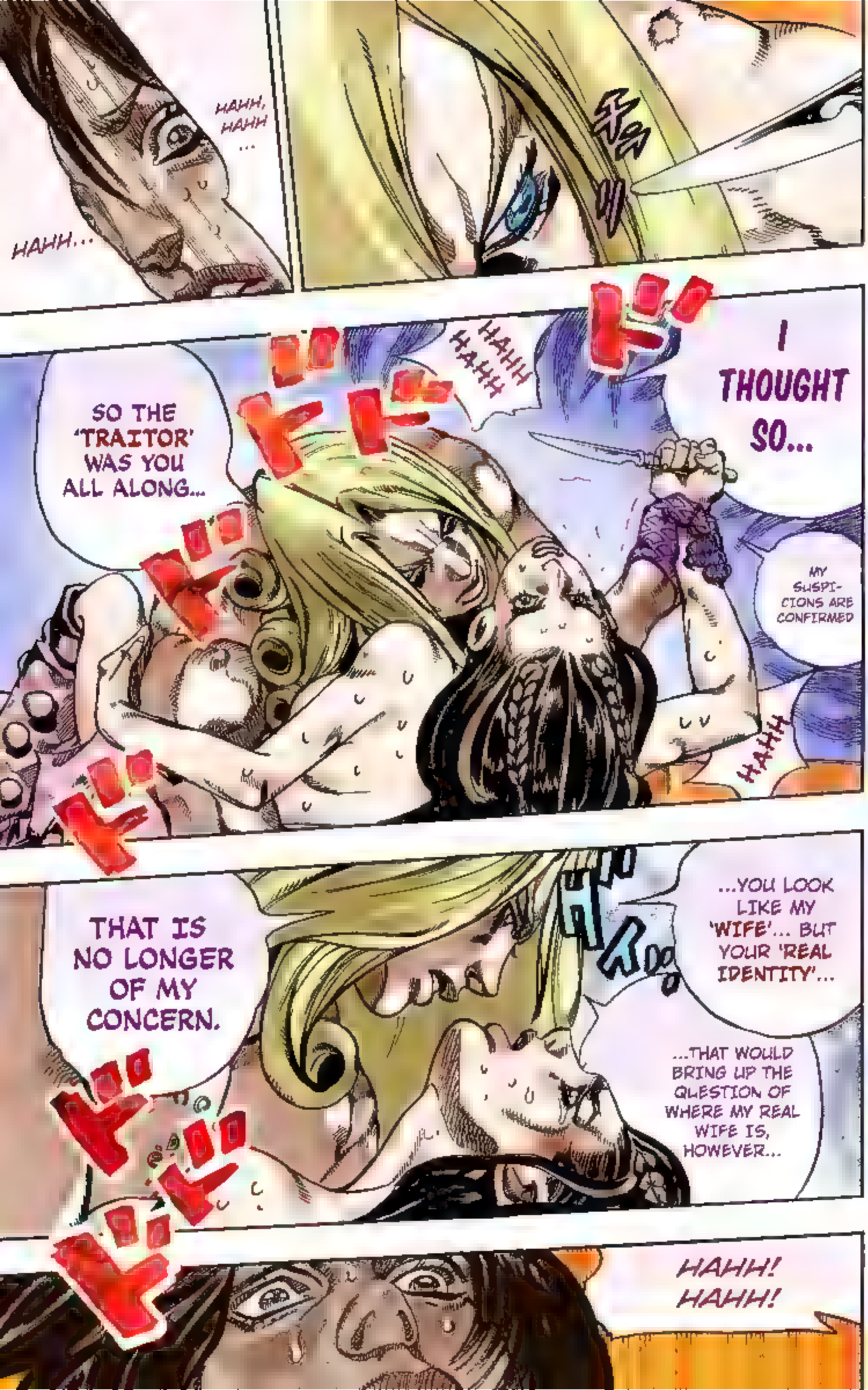
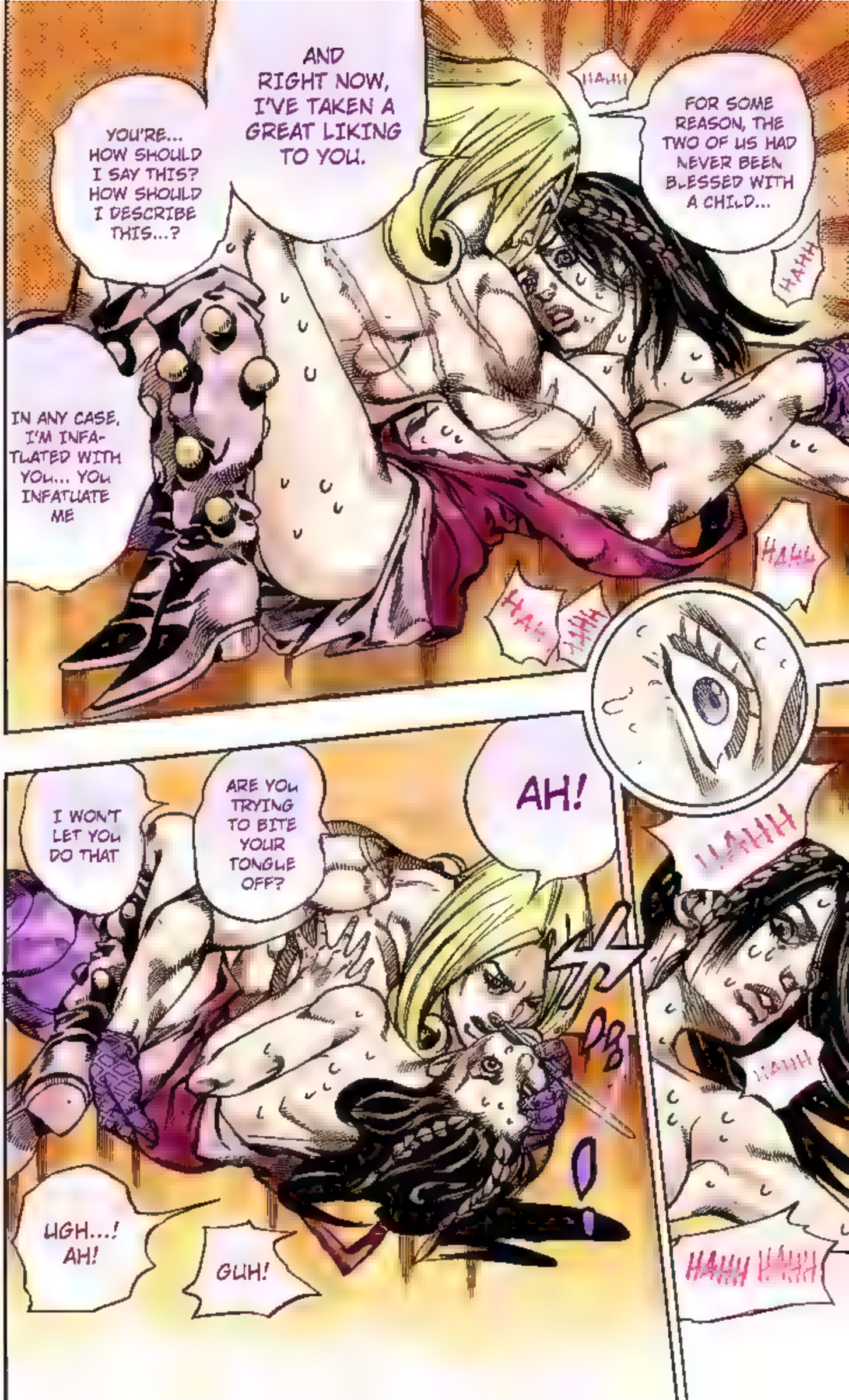

HAHH, HAHH ...
HAHH...
I THOUGHT SO...
HAHH HAHH
SO THE 'TRAITOR' WAS YOU ALL ALONG...
MY SUSPI-CIONS ARE CONFIRMED
HAHH
...YOU LOOK LIKE MY 'WIFE'... BUT YOUR 'REAL IDENTITY'...
THAT IS NO LONGER OF MY CONCERN.
...THAT WOULD BRING UP THE QUESTION OF WHERE MY REAL WIFE IS, HOWEVER...
HAHH! HAHH!


YOU'RE... HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS? HOW SHOULD I DESCRIBE THIS...?
AND RIGHT NOW, I'VE TAKEN A GREAT LIKING TO YOU.
HAHH
FOR SOME REASON, THE TWO OF US HAD NEVER BEEN BLESSED WITH A CHILD...
HAHH
IN ANY CASE, I'M INFA-TUATED WITH YOU... YOU INFATUATE ME
HAH
HAHH
HAH
HAHH
I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT
ARE YOU TRYING TO BITE YOUR TONGUE OFF?
AH!
HHH
PB
UGH...! AH!
GUH!
HAHH HAHH

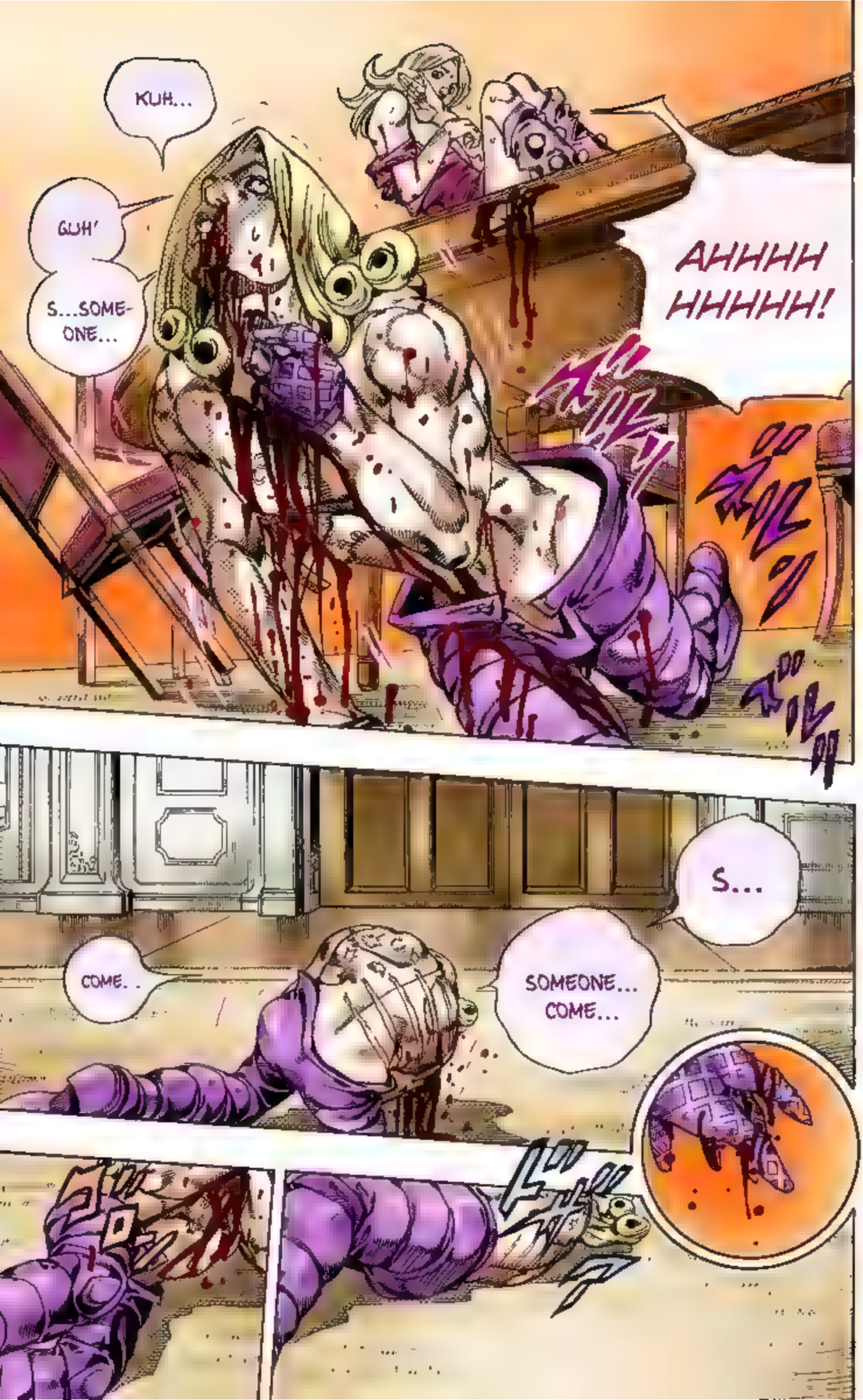
I'LL HAVE YOU BE THE REPLACE-MENT FOR MY WIFE.
ALL I WANT YOU TO DO IS TO BEAR MY CHILD.
AH... AHHHH!
GUH... N, NO. .!
NOOO! N... NO!
SOME-BODY...! AHHHHH!
NOOOO OOOOO OOOO!

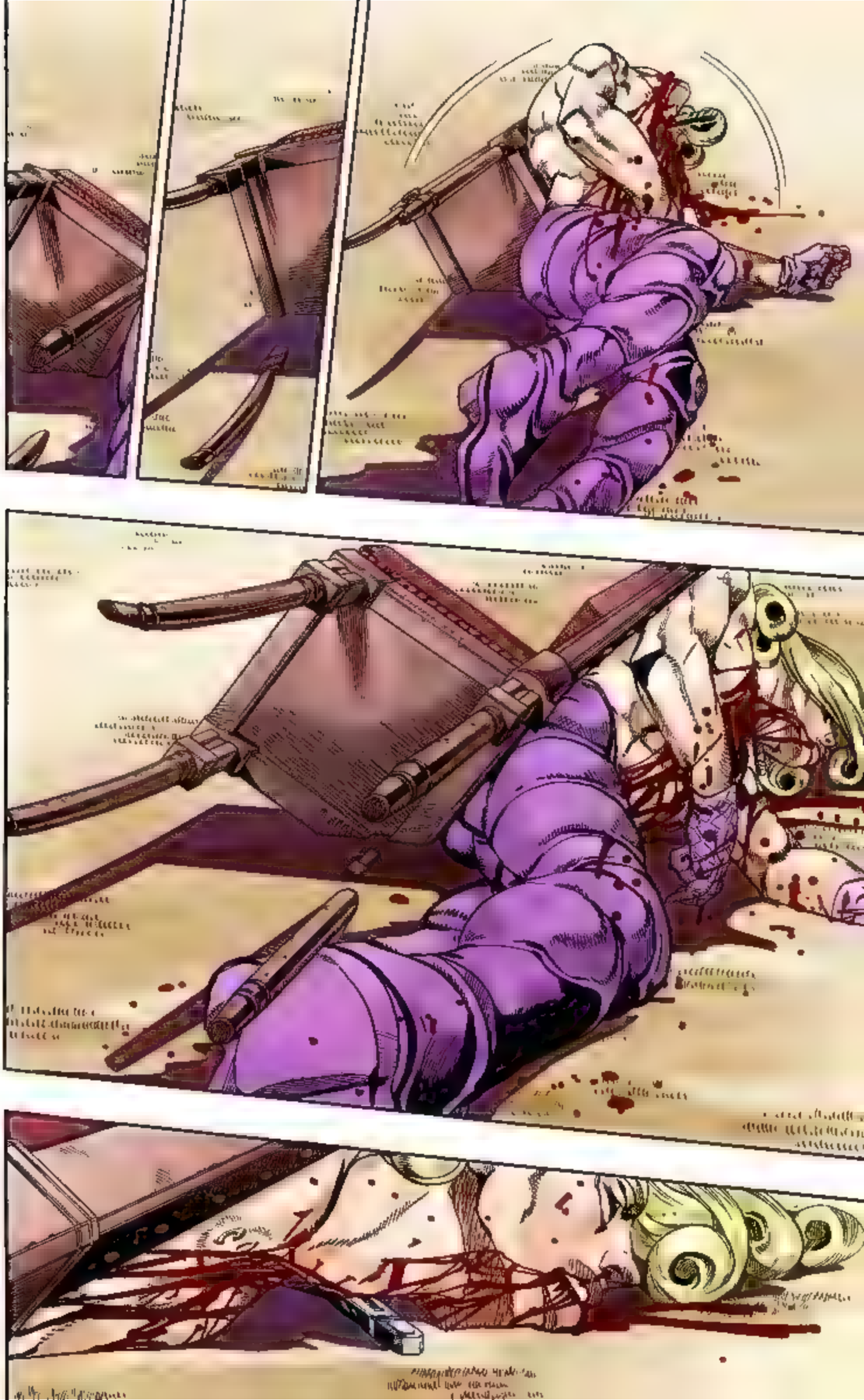
GUH...
AGH...
YOU'RE...!? YOU'RE 'STEEL'S'...
THIS SKIN...
THAT'S .....
WHAT ...!?
AH!

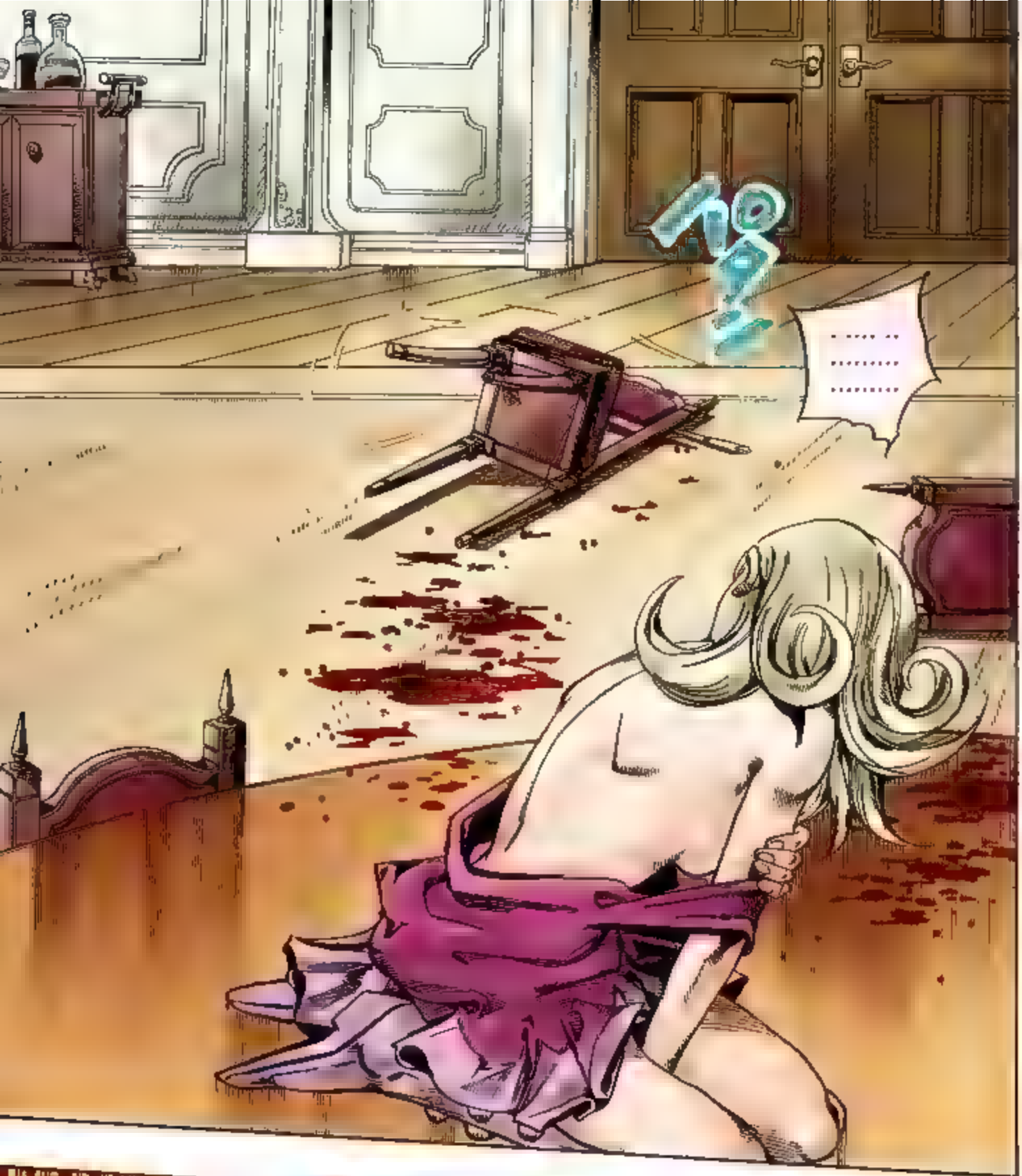
KICK
KICK
AHHHH!!

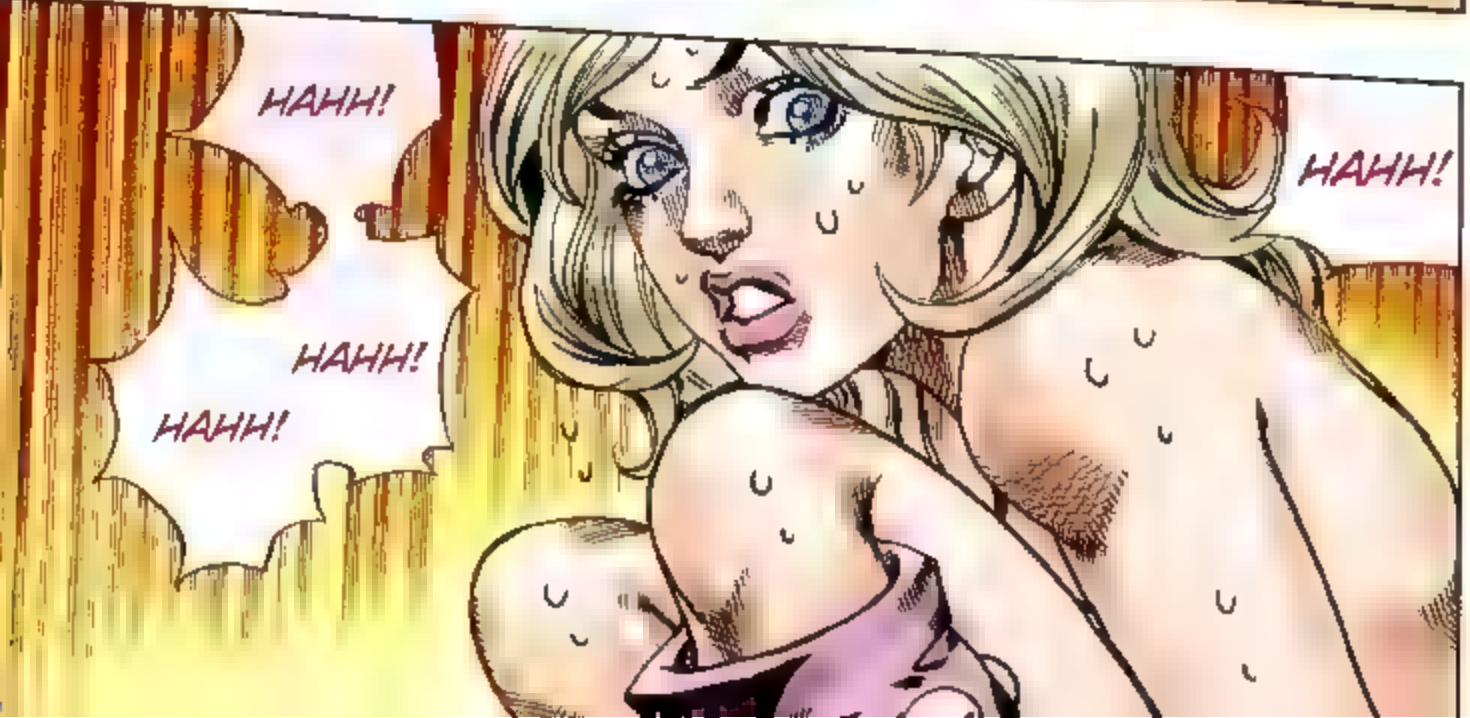
AHHHHHHHH!!!
?
LOL
YOU ...
UGH
...GUH...
AGH
YOU ....!
AHHHH HHHH!
?
WHAT . . .?

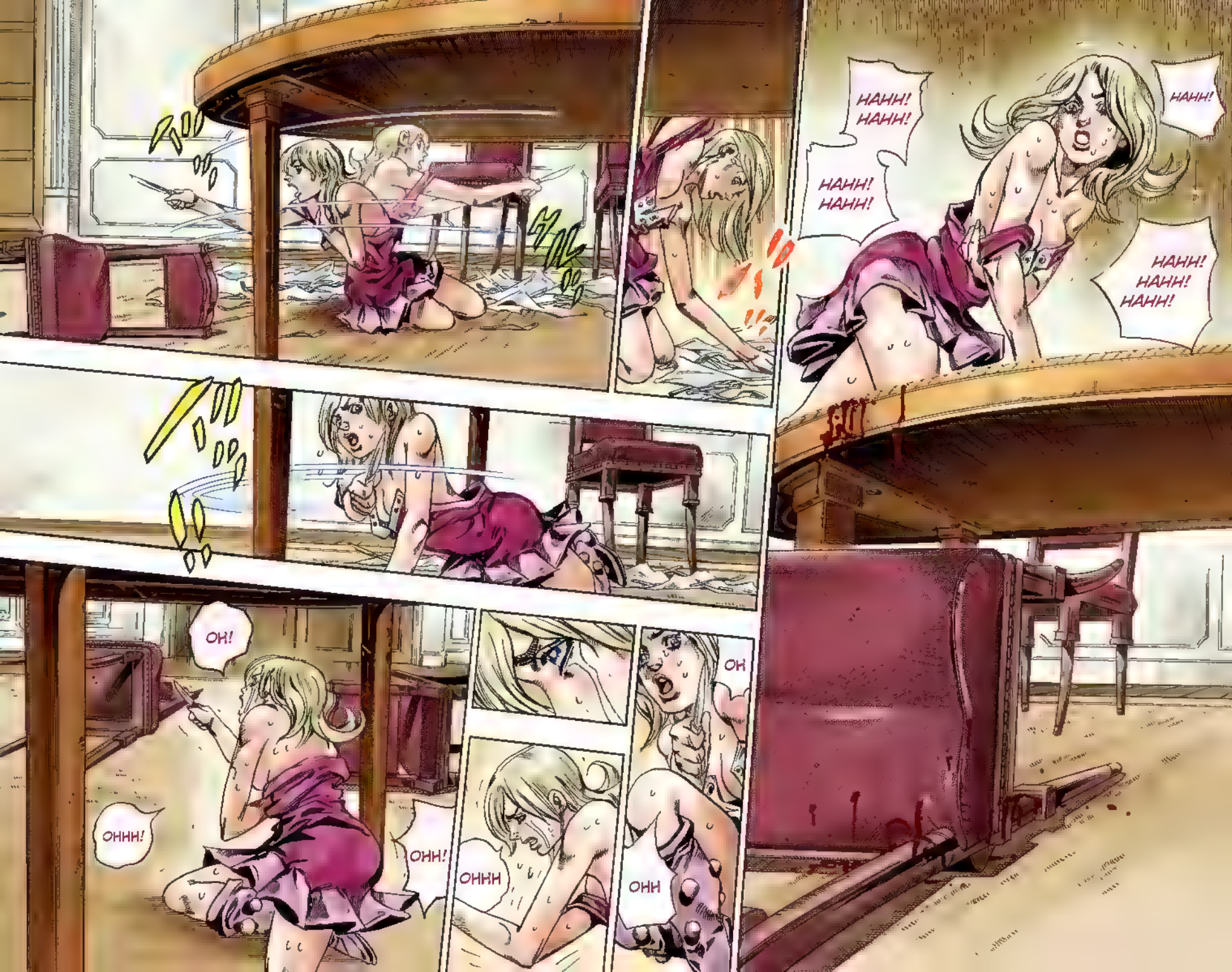
AHHHH HHHH!
AHHH!
W... WAIT...
UGH'
YOU'RE LUCY STEEL...
WHAT IS YOUR MOTIVE? WHY WOULD STEEL'S WIFE...
GUH!
AHHHH HHHH!
GUHHH'

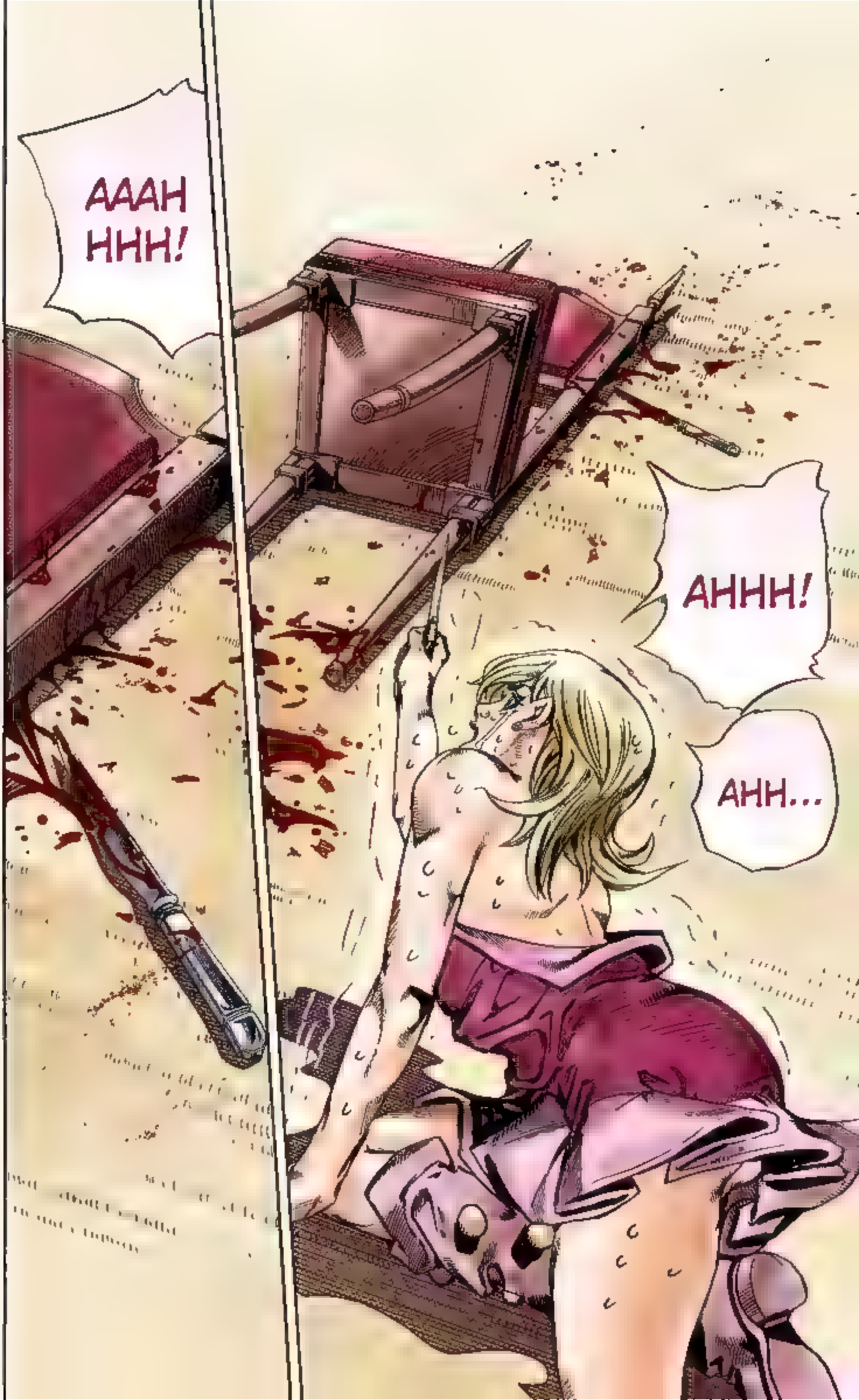

KUH...
GUH'
S...SOME-ONE...
AHHHH HHHHH!
S...
COME. .
SOMEONE... COME...

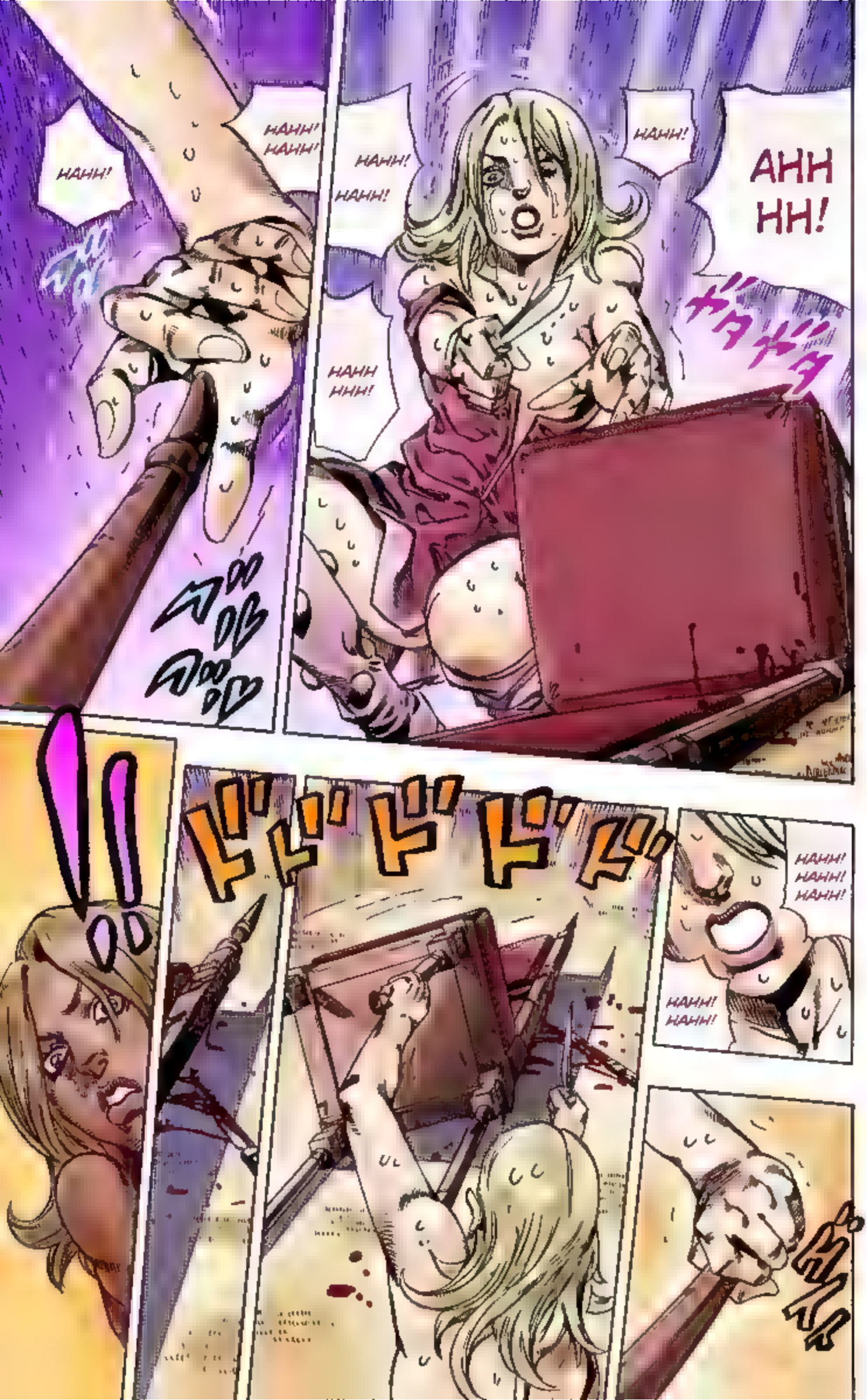



NO?
. . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .


HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!


HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!
OH!
OHHH!
OHH!
OHHH
OH
OHH


AAAH
HHH!
AHHH!
AHH...


HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH
HHH!
AHH
HH!
ガタガタ
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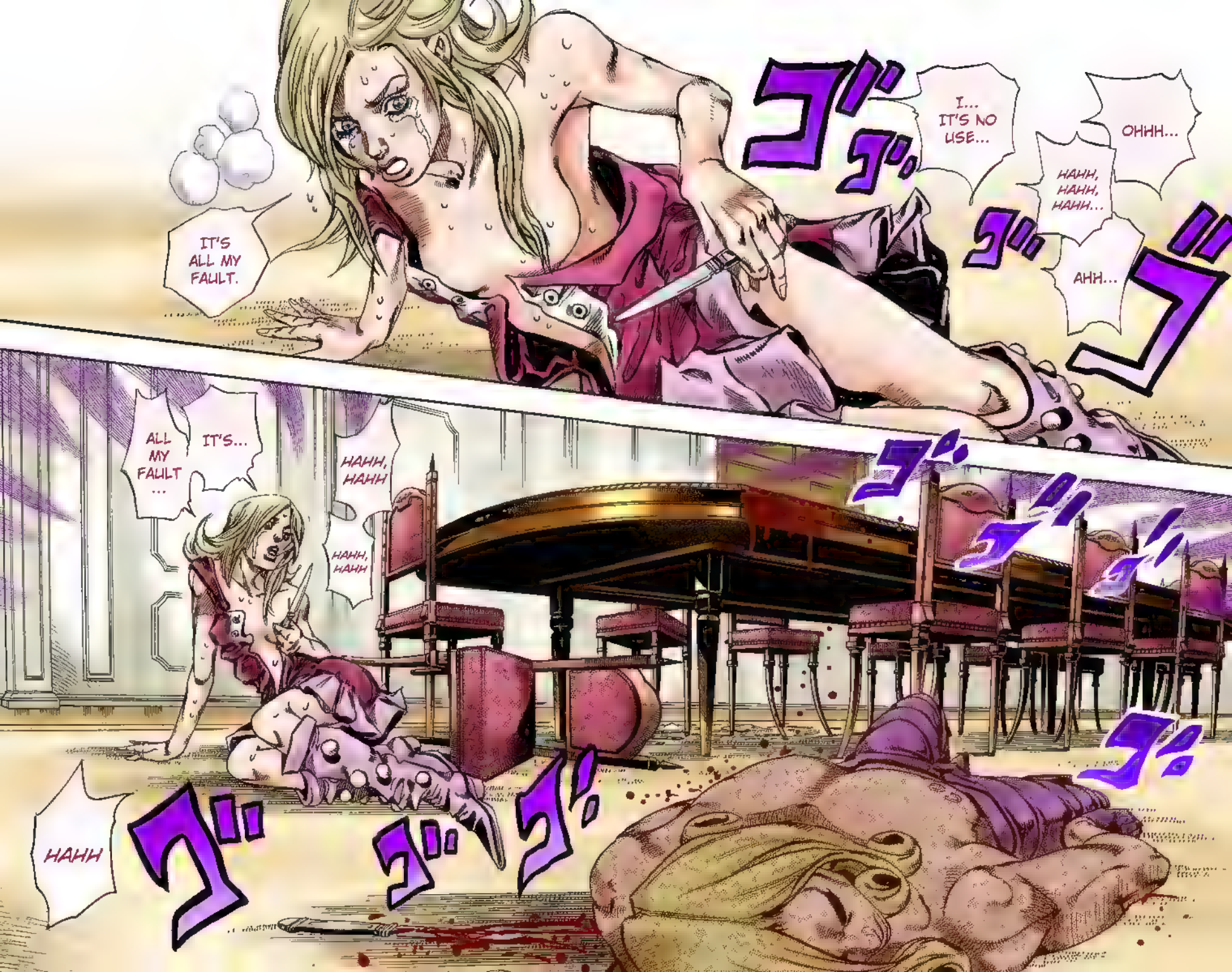
HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!
HAHH!

ドドド
AAA HHH !!!
ドドド
HAHH! HAHH! HAHH!
HAHH! HAHH!
ドドド
HAHH!
HAHH!
ドドド

HE'S...! THIS COUN-TRY'S PRESI-DENT...
AS I THOUGHT, THE PRE-SIDENT IS...!

AND 'THE DEVIL'.
A 'STAND USER' ...
AAAA AAHH HHHH HHH!!
HIP!

#62
DIRTY DEEDS DONE
DIRT CHEAP


IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
I... IT'S NO USE...
HAHH, HAHH, HAHH...
OHHH...
AHH...
ゴゴゴ
ALL MY FAULT...
IT'S...
HAHH, HAHH
HAHH, HAHH
HAHH
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
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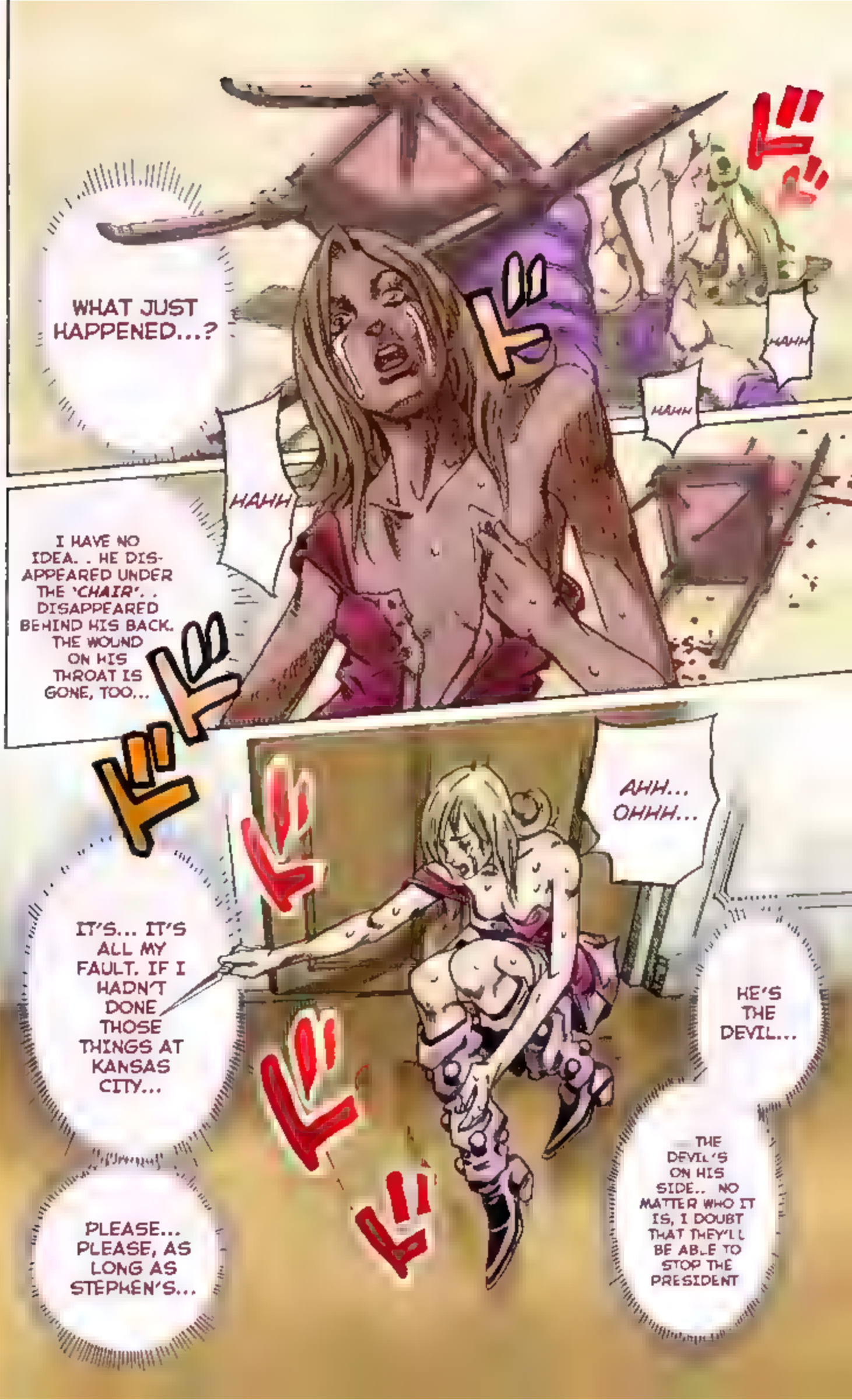
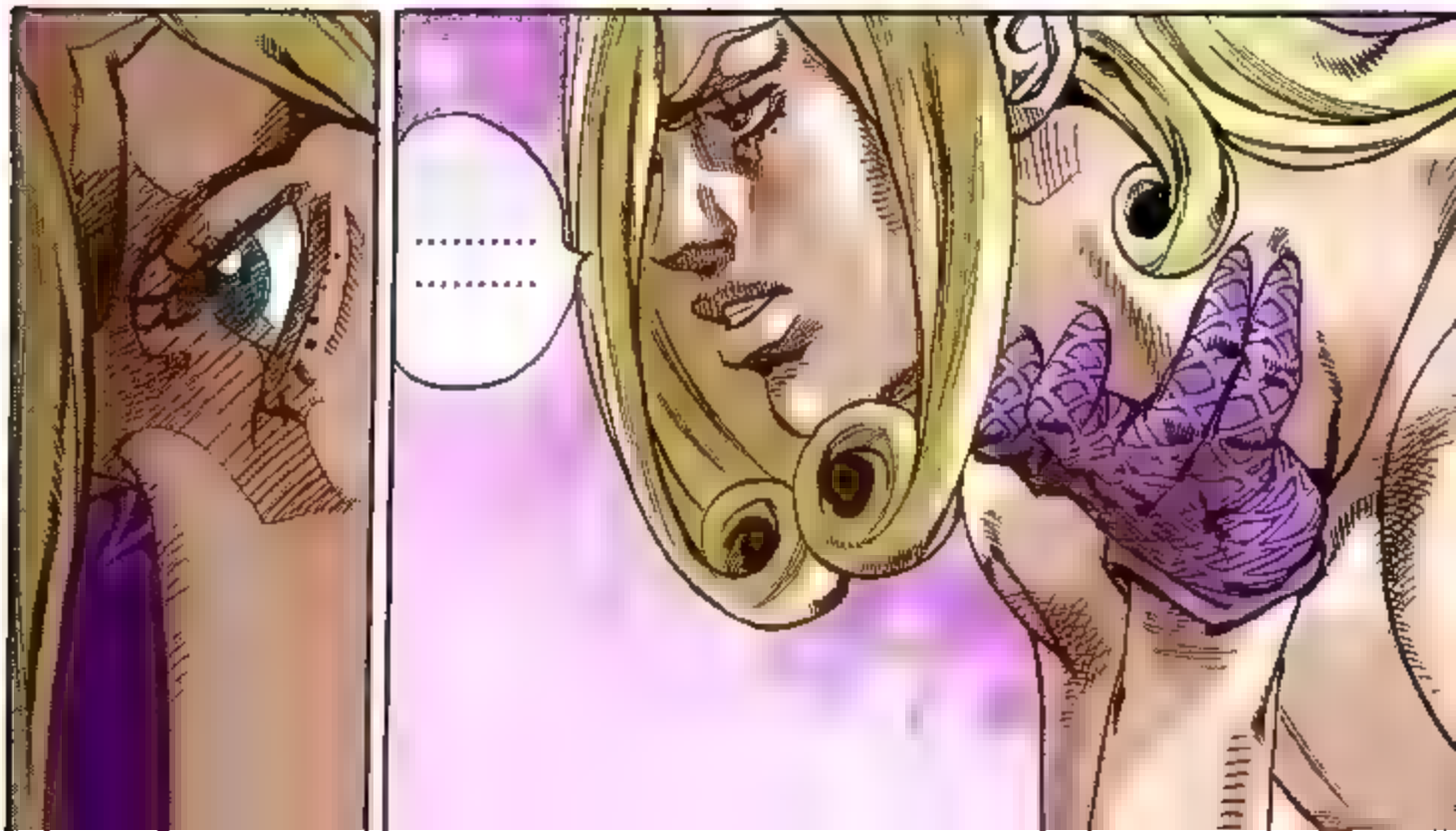
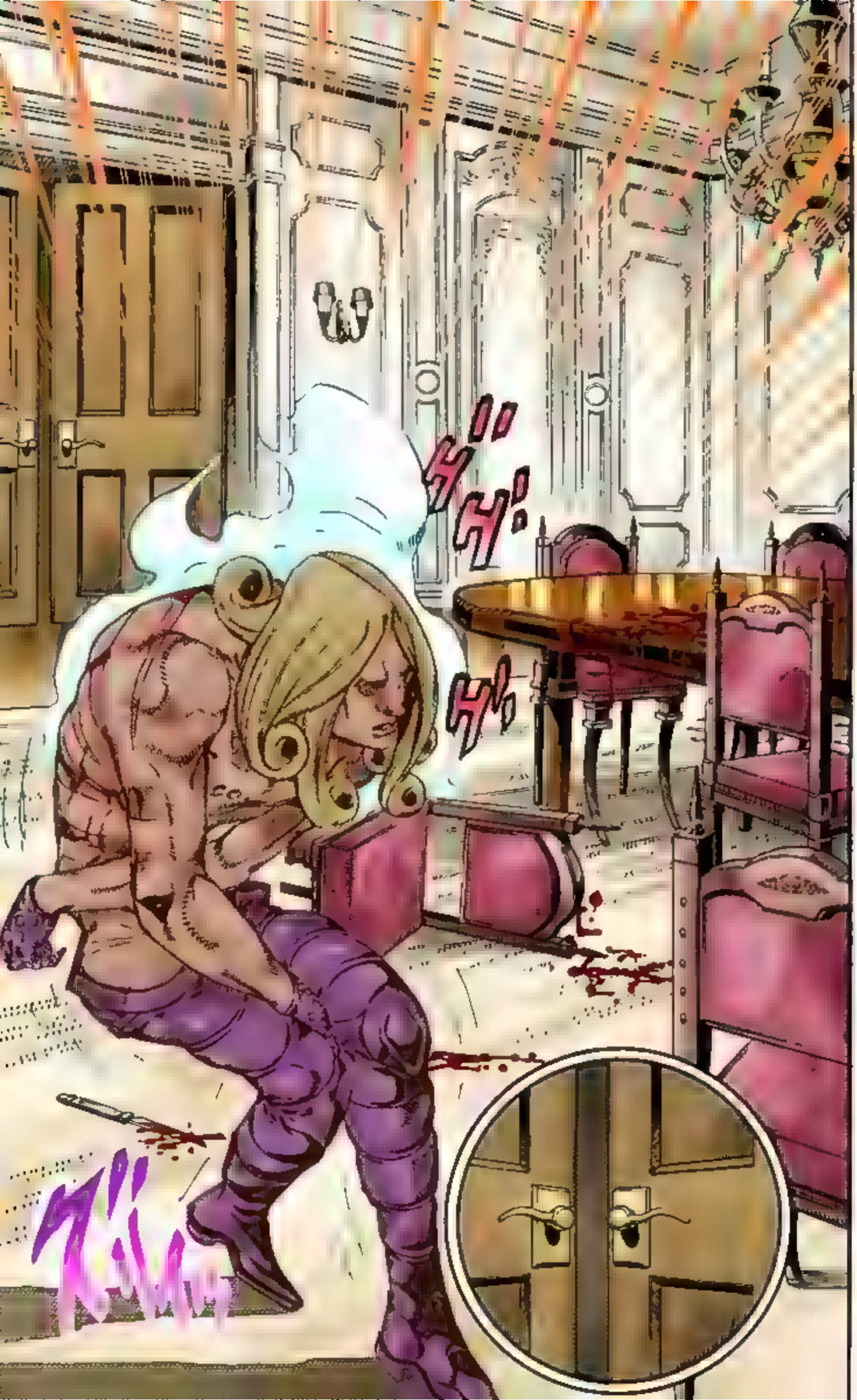
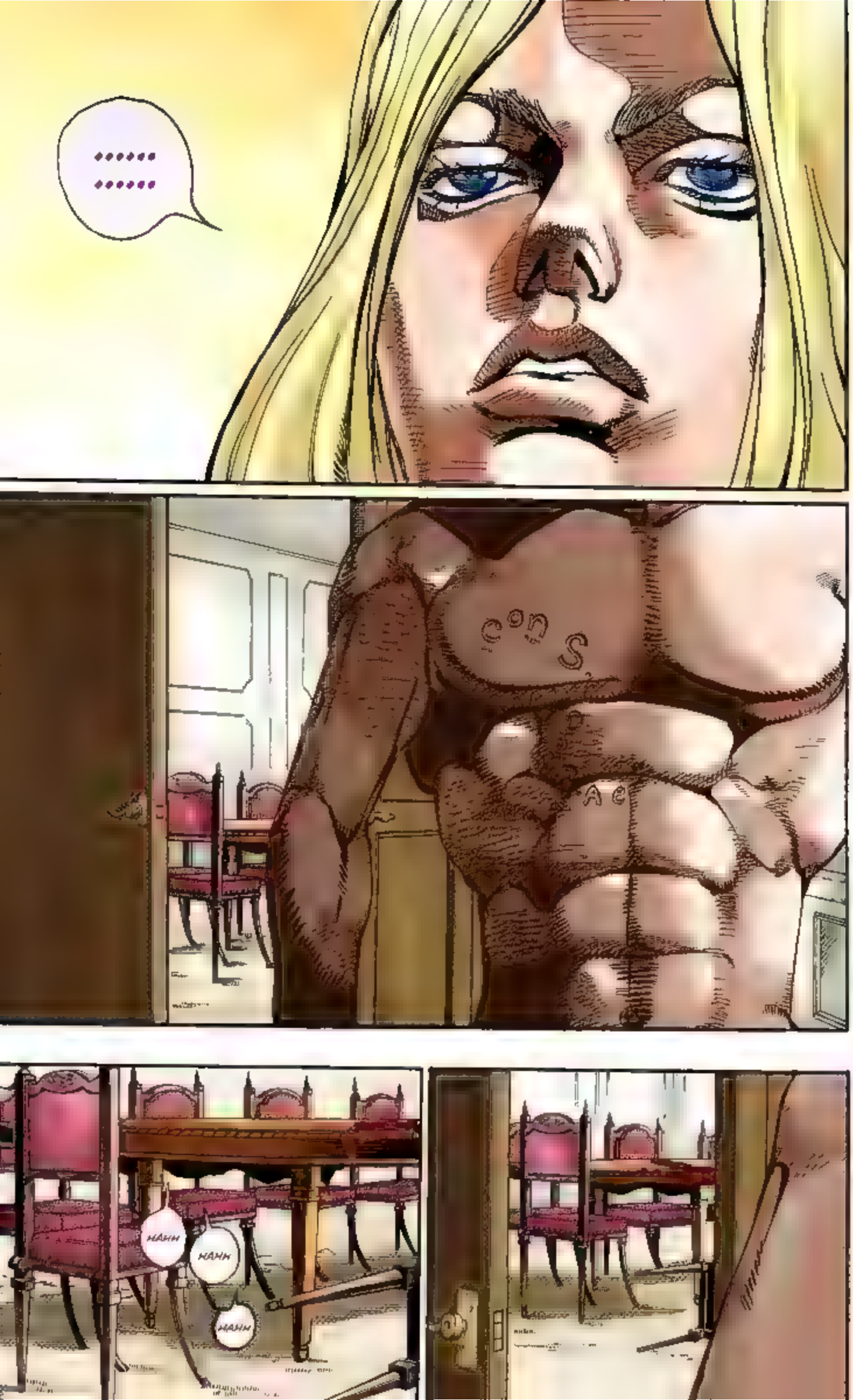
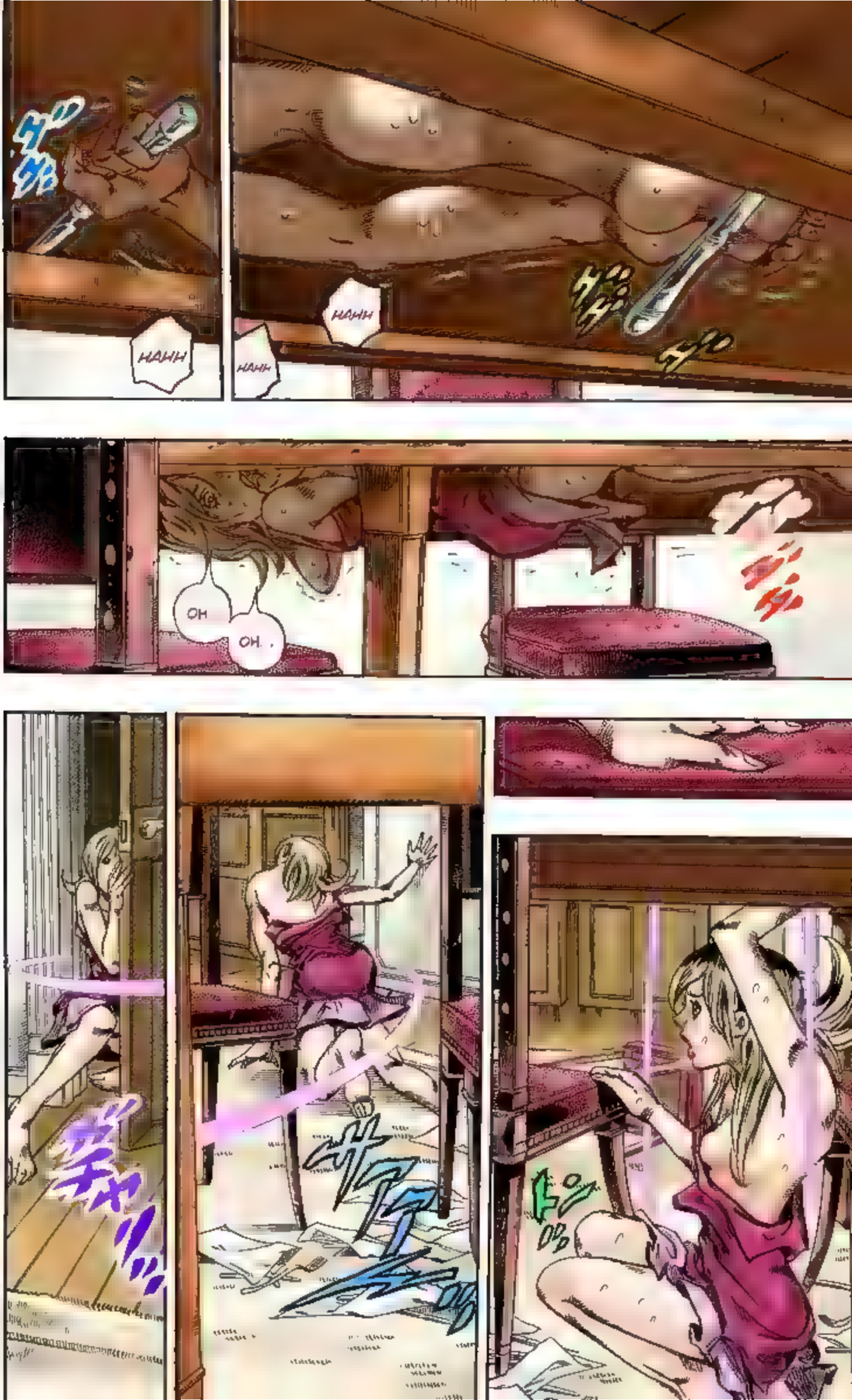

WHAT JUST HAPPENED...?
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
I HAVE NO IDEA. . HE DIS-APPEARED UNDER THE 'CHAIR'. . DISAPPEARED BEHIND HIS BACK. THE WOUND ON HIS THROAT IS GONE, TOO...
AHH... OHHH...
IT'S... IT'S ALL MY FAULT. IF I HADN'T DONE THOSE THINGS AT KANSAS CITY...
HE'S THE DEVIL...
THE DEVIL'S ON HIS SIDE.. NO MATTER WHO IT IS, I DOUBT THAT THEY'LL BE ABLE TO STOP THE PRESIDENT
PLEASE... PLEASE, AS LONG AS STEPHEN'S...

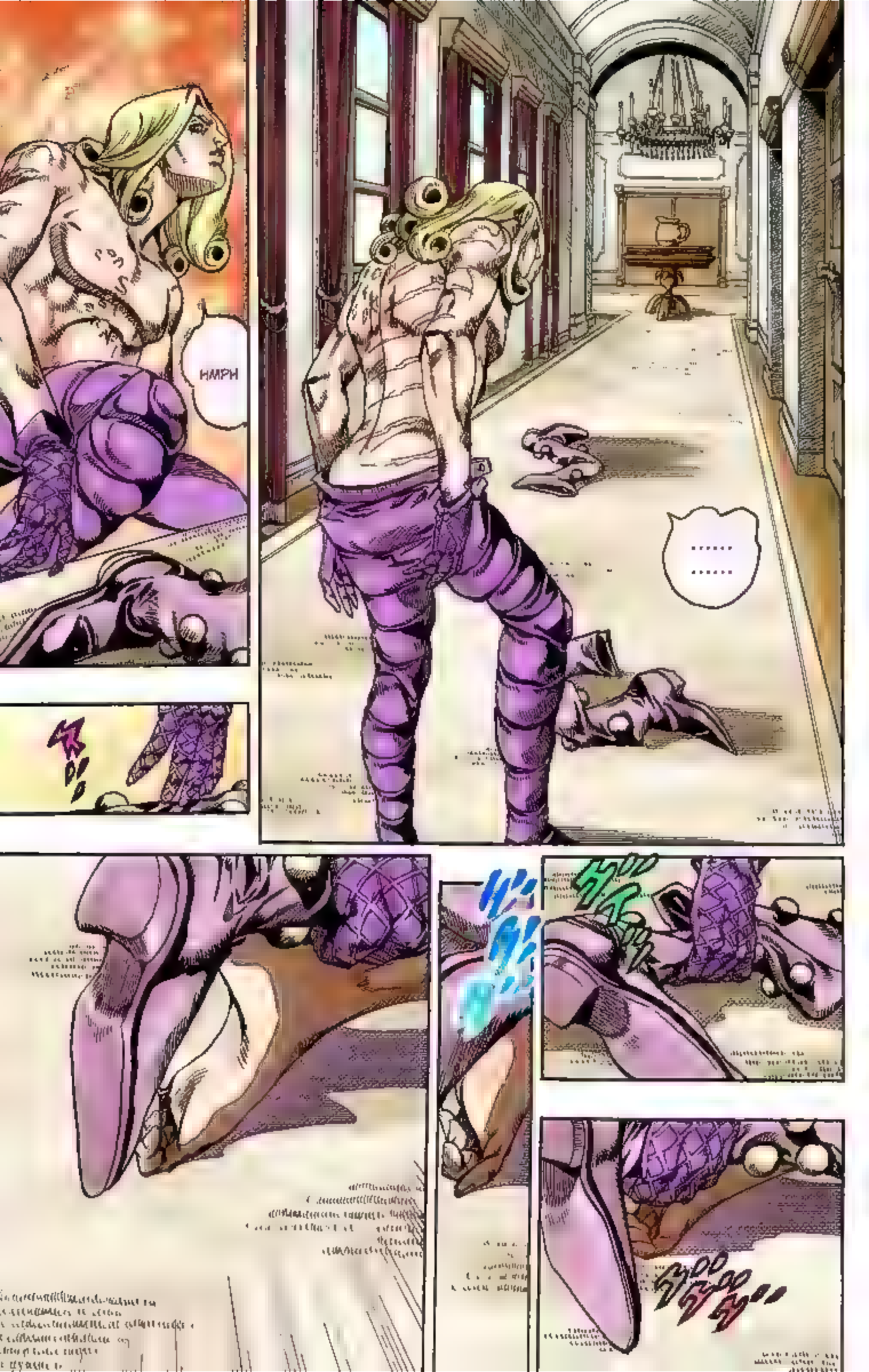
TO PRO-TECT HIM, I...
PLEASE KEEP HIM SAFE...! FOR THAT, I...
I'LL GIVE UP ANY-THING ...!
PLEASE, GOD, PROTECT HIM...
OHHH...






.....
.....
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH


HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
OH
OH..


HMPH
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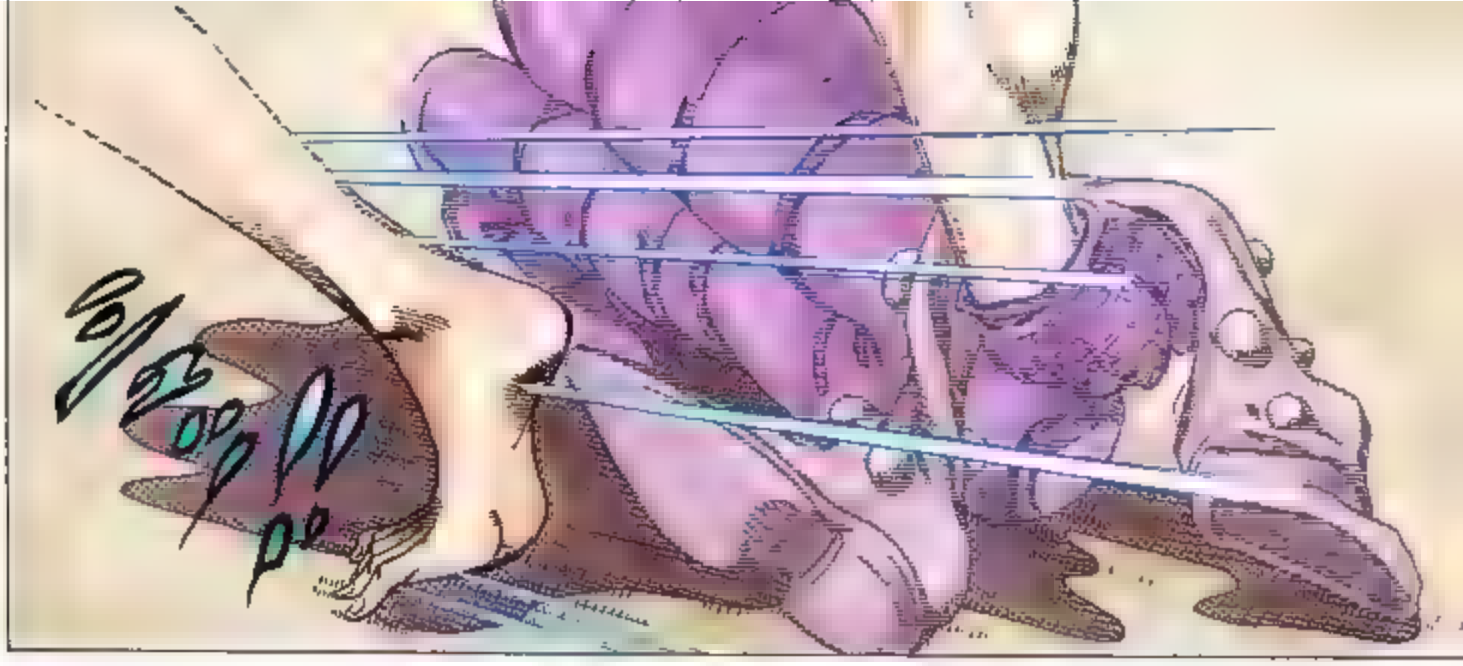
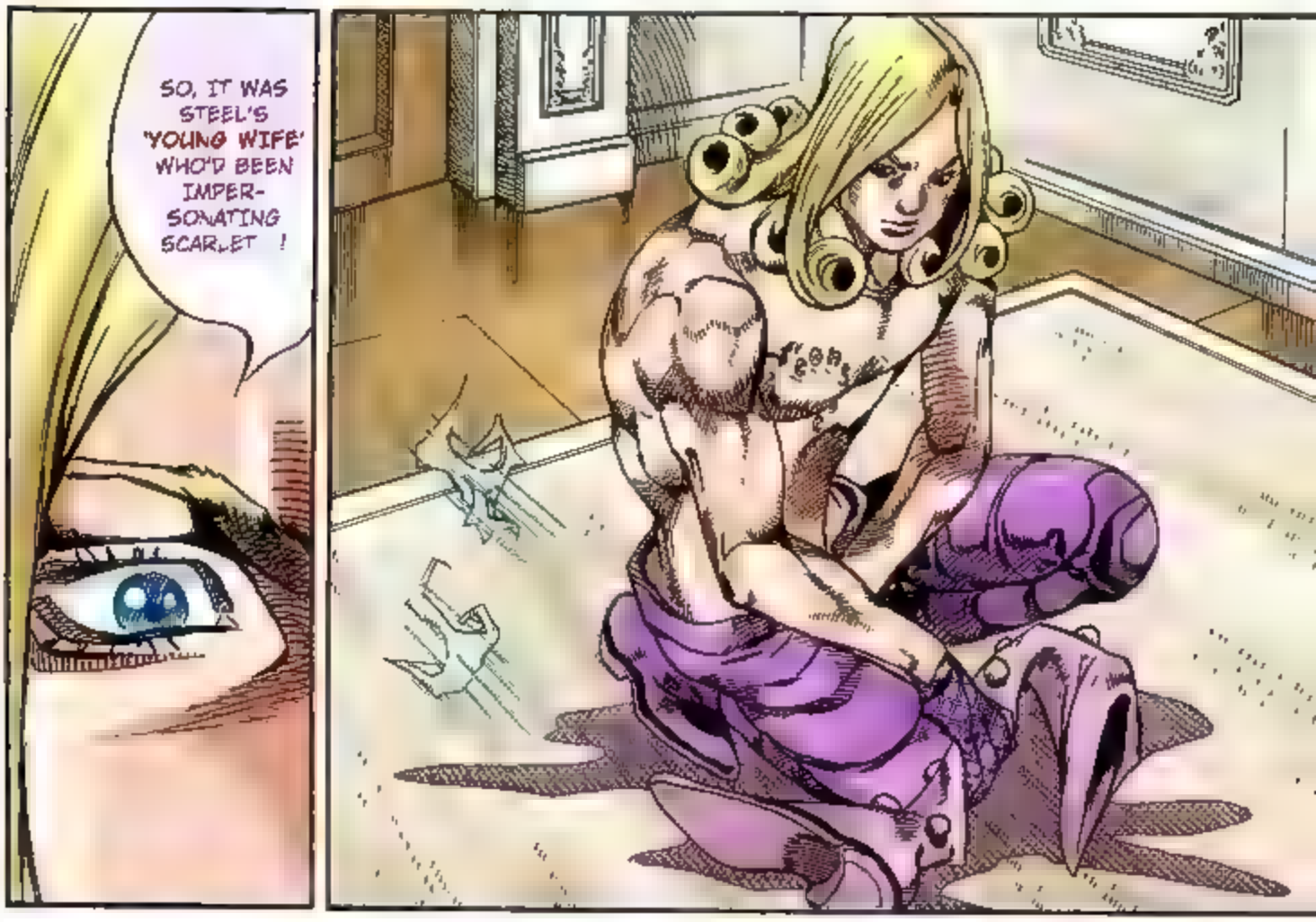
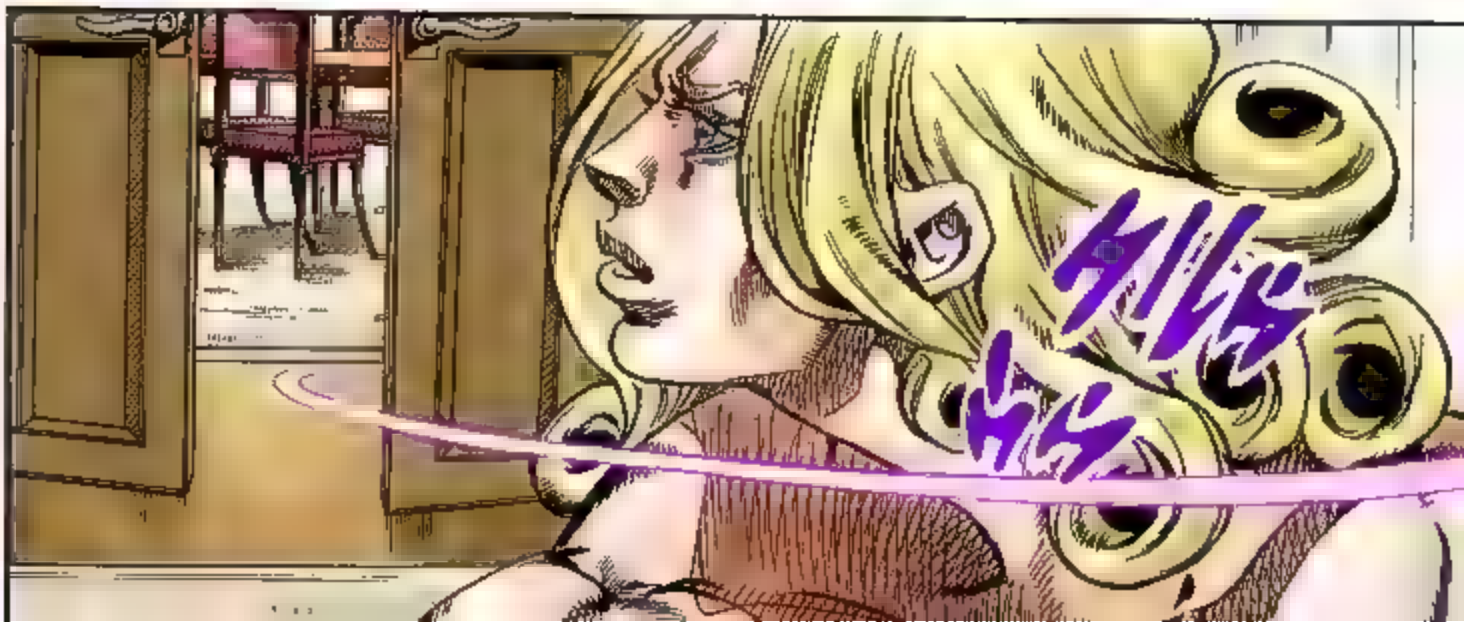


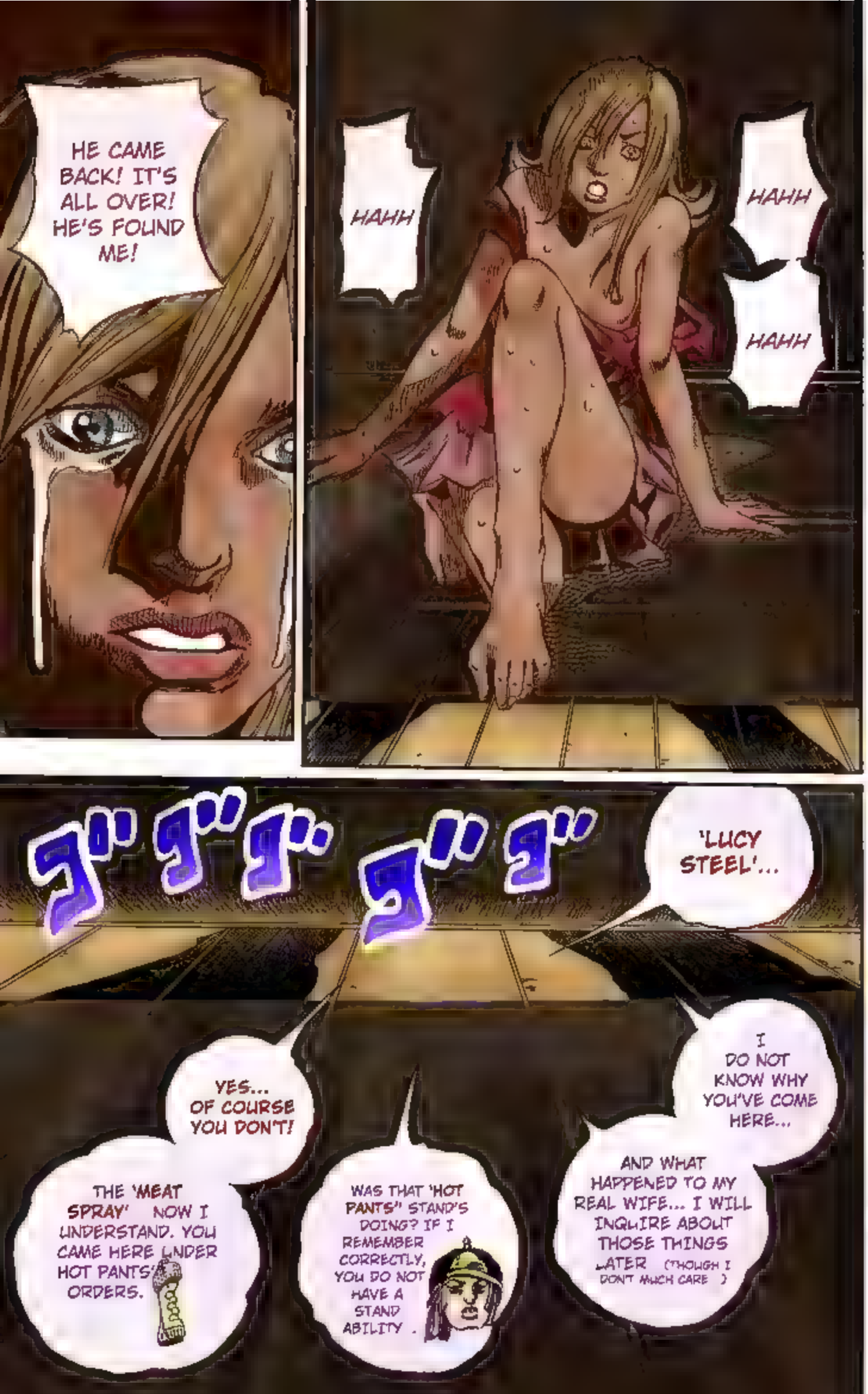

SO, IT WAS STEEL'S 'YOUNG WIFE' WHO'D BEEN IMPER-SONATING SCARLET !

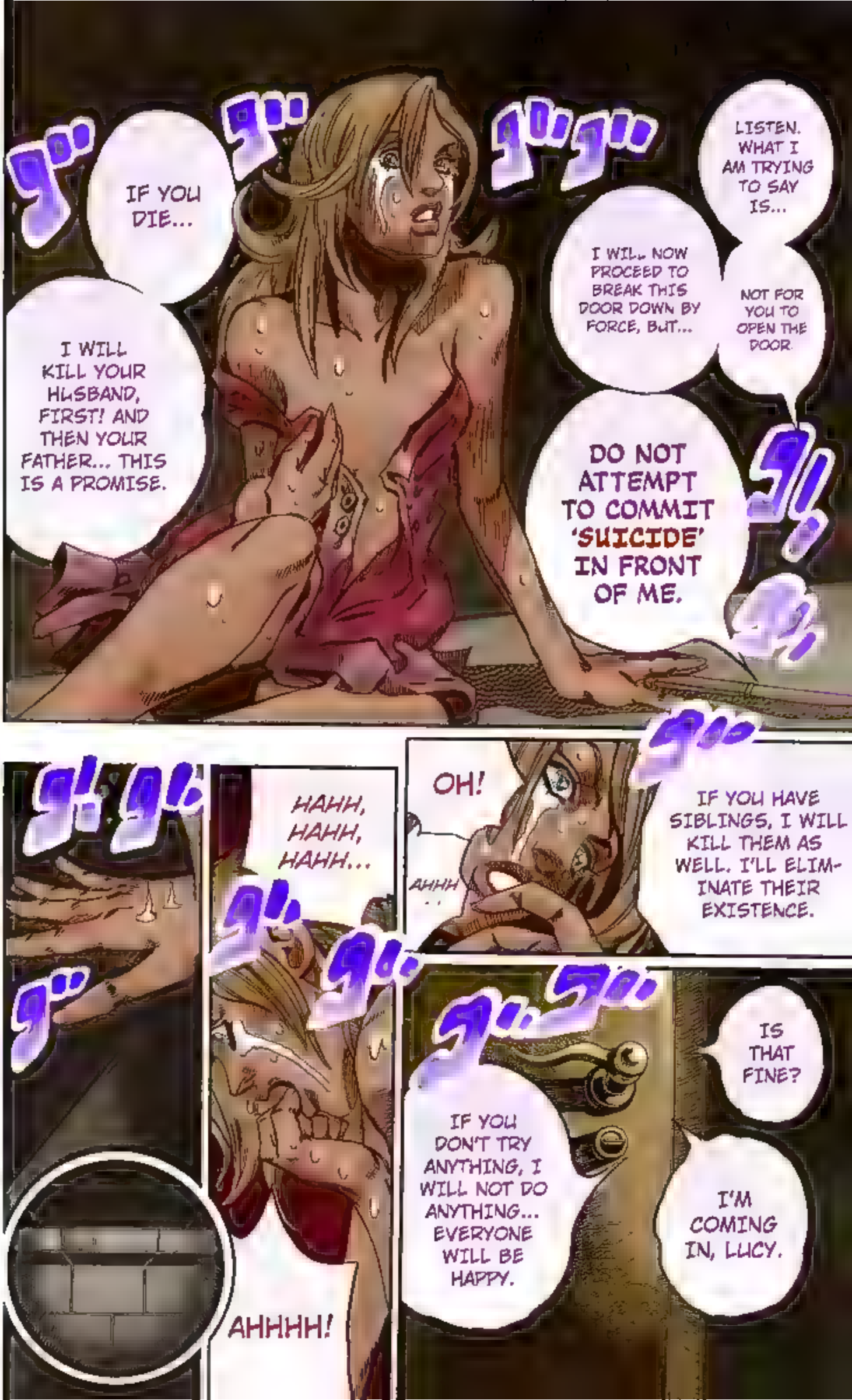


EVEN MORE SO... I WON'T LET HER GET AWAY.
BUT NOW I'M EVEN MORE INTRIGUED.
I .. I HAVE TO ESCAPE!
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH

HAHH
HAHH ...
HAHH HAHH
I HAVE TO GET OUT OF THIS BUILDING SOMEHOW AND GET BACK TO STEPHEN!
I HAVE TO ESCAPE!
HAHH. HAHH...
I HAVE TO ESCAPE!
A WINDOW ?
HAHH, HAHH
OH... NO...!
AHHH!
AHHH!

WHERE DID IT GO!?
IT DEFINITELY ROLLED UNDERNEATH THE DOOR INTO THIS ROOM...
THE 'RIGHT EYE' THAT FELL OUT OF MY POCKET A WHILE BACK...
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DRAWN TO THE OTHER CORPSE PARTS IN THIS BUILDING AND ROLLED INTO THIS ROOM...
WHERE IS IT?
IF ONLY I COULD FIND IT, IT SHOULD SHOW ME 'AN ESCAPE ROUTE'!
PAUSE
!!


HE CAME BACK! IT'S ALL OVER! HE'S FOUND ME!
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
ゴゴゴ ゴゴ
'LUCY STEEL'...
I DO NOT KNOW WHY YOU'VE COME HERE...
AND WHAT HAPPENED TO MY REAL WIFE... I WILL INQUIRE ABOUT THOSE THINGS LATER (THOUGH I DON'T MUCH CARE)
WAS THAT 'HOT PANTS'' STAND'S DOING? IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOU DO NOT HAVE A STAND ABILITY .
YES... OF COURSE YOU DON'T!
THE 'MEAT SPRAY' NOW I UNDERSTAND. YOU CAME HERE UNDER HOT PANTS' ORDERS.


IF YOU DIE...
I WILL KILL YOUR HUSBAND, FIRST! AND THEN YOUR FATHER... THIS IS A PROMISE.
LISTEN. WHAT I AM TRYING TO SAY IS...
I WILL NOW PROCEED TO BREAK THIS DOOR DOWN BY FORCE, BUT...
NOT FOR YOU TO OPEN THE DOOR
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO COMMIT 'SUICIDE' IN FRONT OF ME.
HAHH, HAHH, HAHH...
AHHHH!
OH!
AHHH..
IF YOU HAVE SIBLINGS, I WILL KILL THEM AS WELL. I'LL ELIMINATE THEIR EXISTENCE.
IF YOU DON'T TRY ANYTHING, I WILL NOT DO ANYTHING... EVERYONE WILL BE HAPPY.
IS THAT FINE?
I'M COMING IN, LUCY.

AH!
BUT...
OHHH ...!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CLIMB THIS...! IT'S SUCH A SMALL SPACE, AND I HAVE TO CLIMB 'UP'...
!?
A 'FIRE-PLACE'...
THIS IS A FIRE-PLACE!
I CAN SEE A LIGHT..
A CHI-MNEY ...

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AAAAA
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EEEEEE
EEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEE!!

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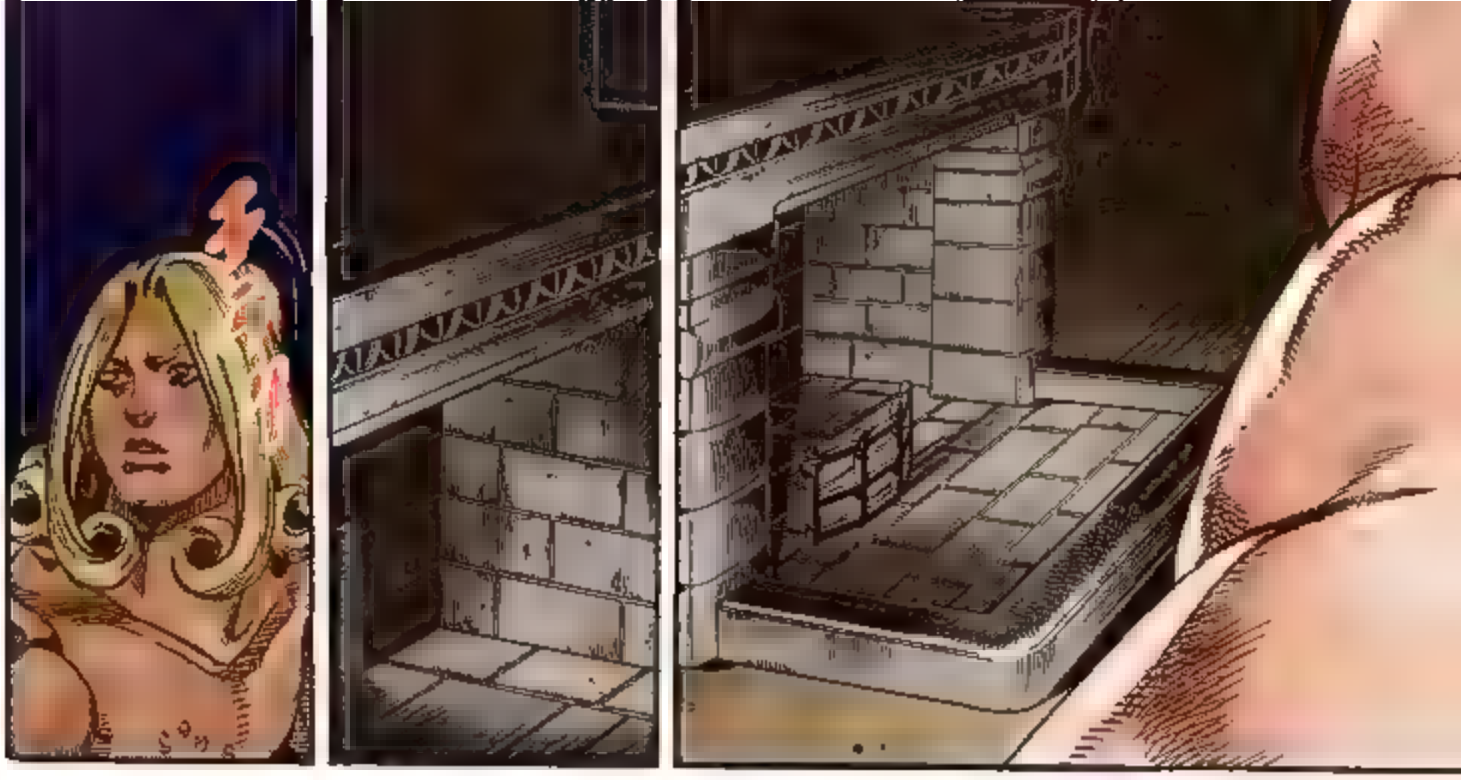

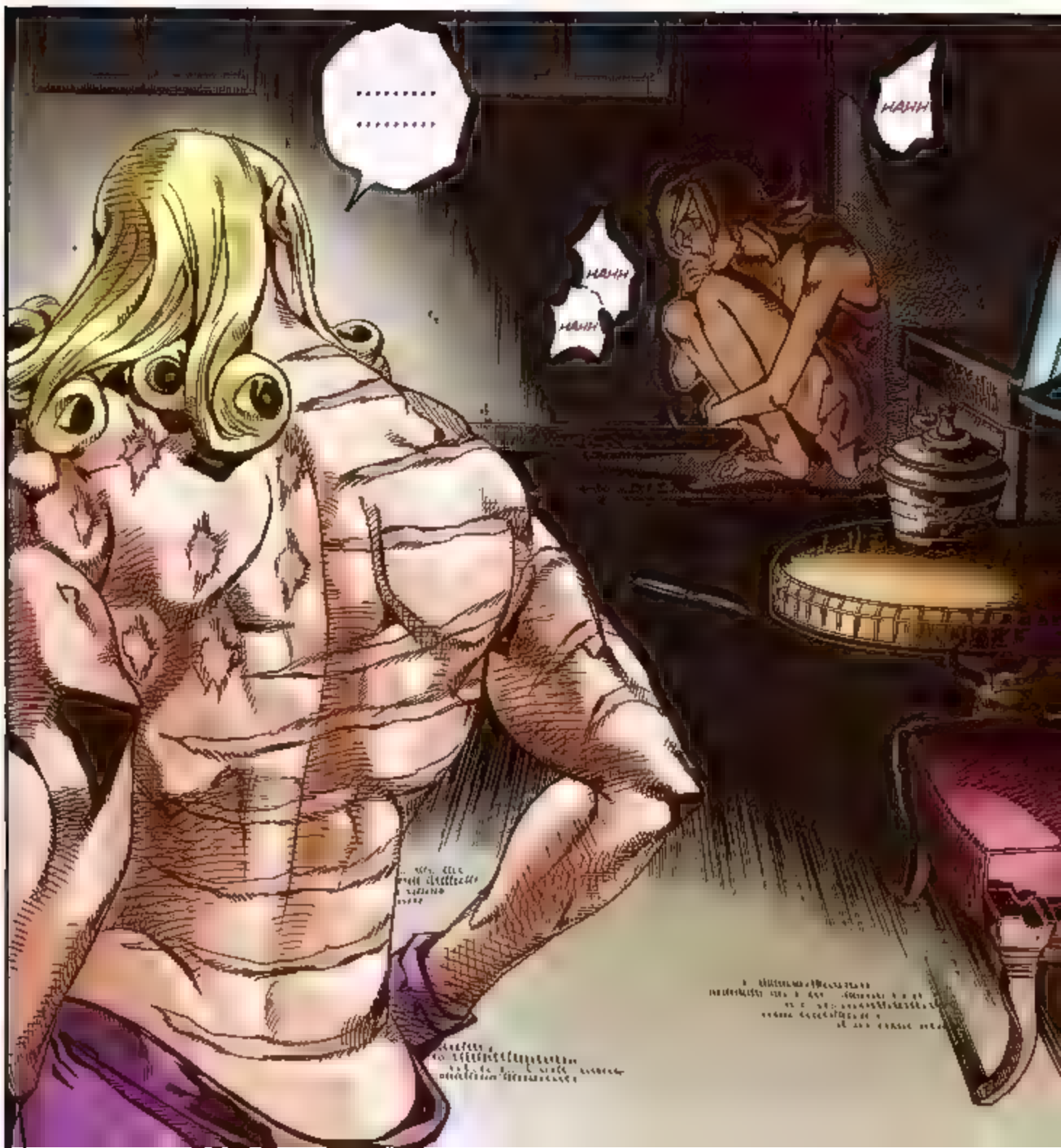
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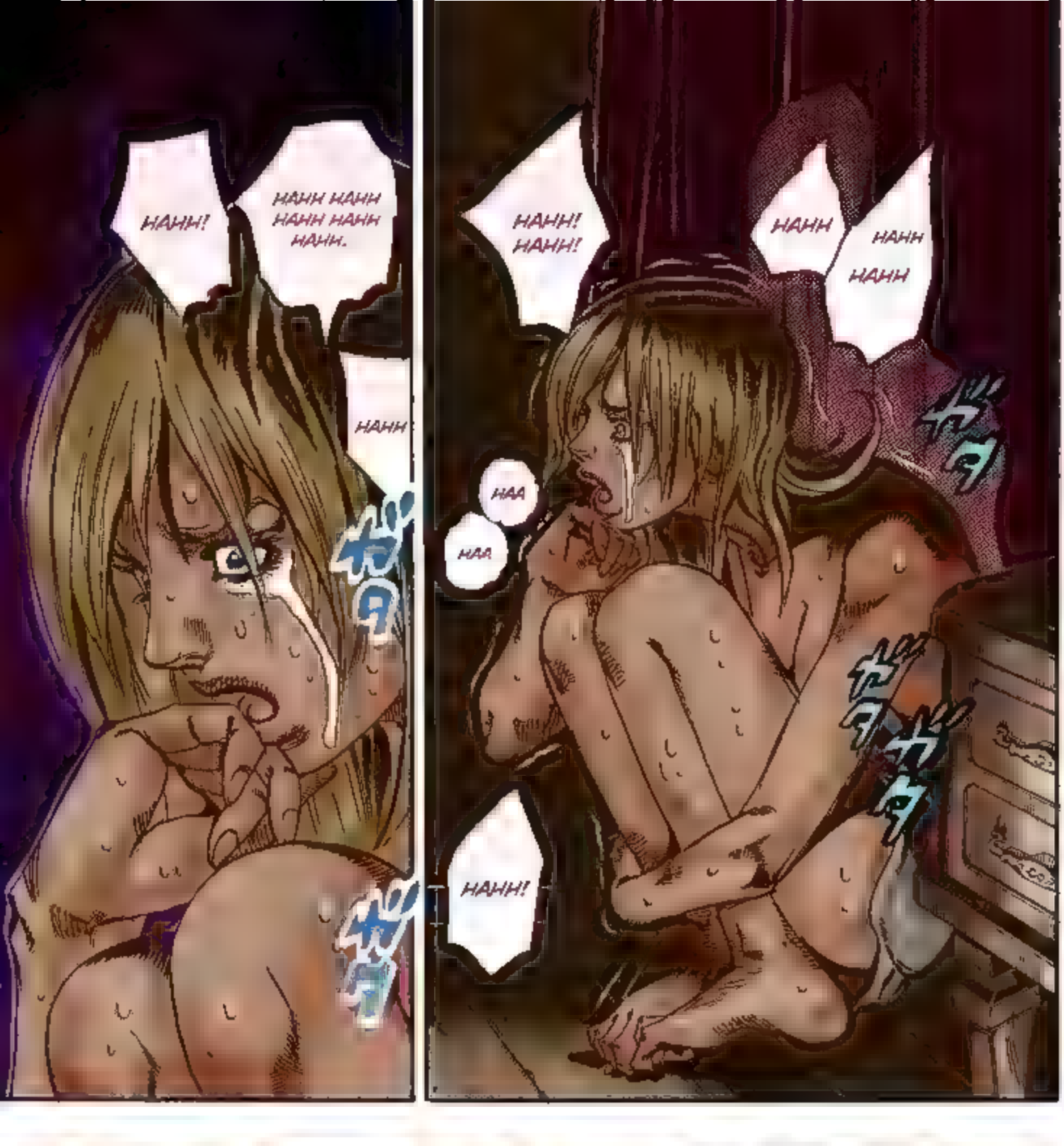
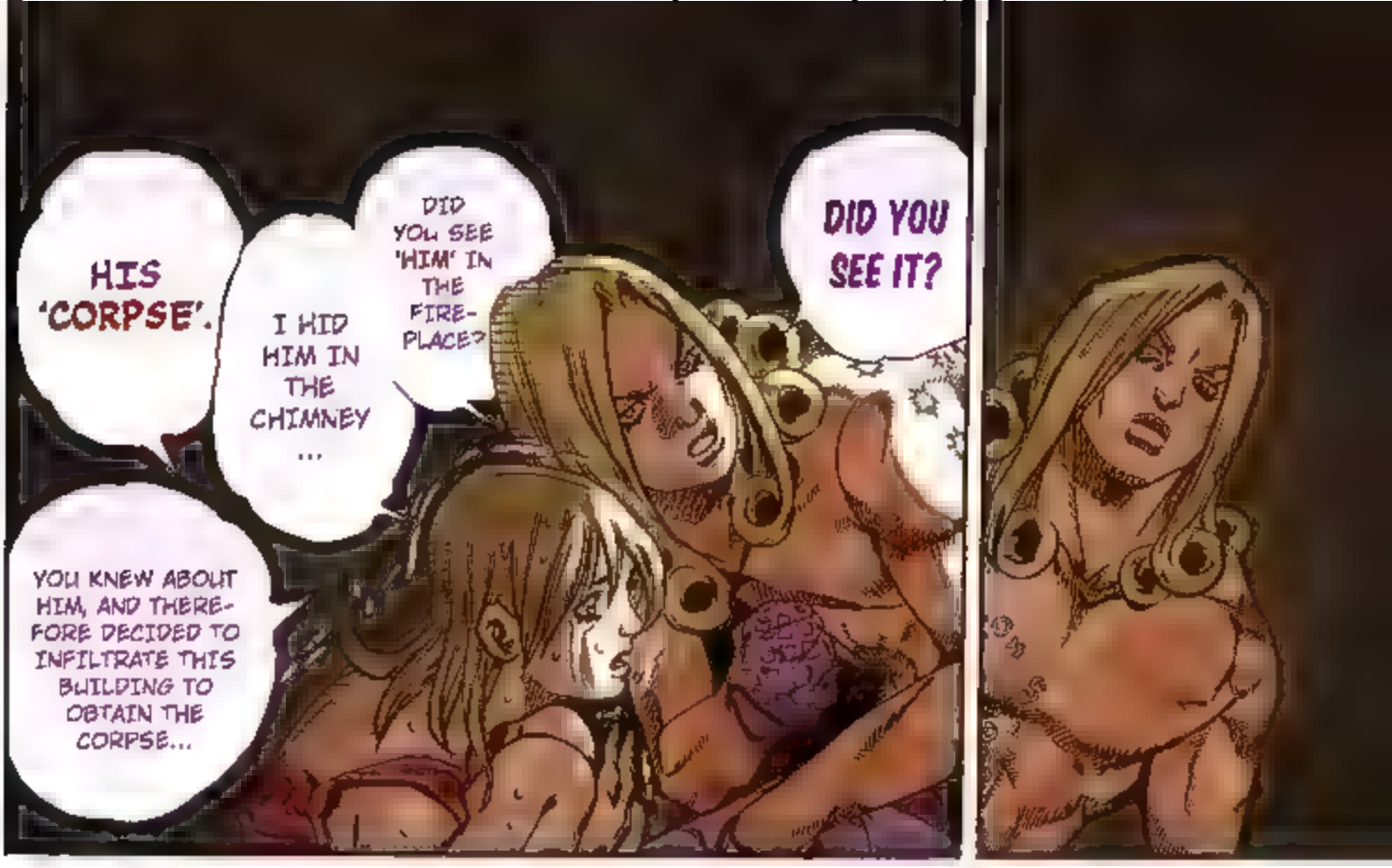
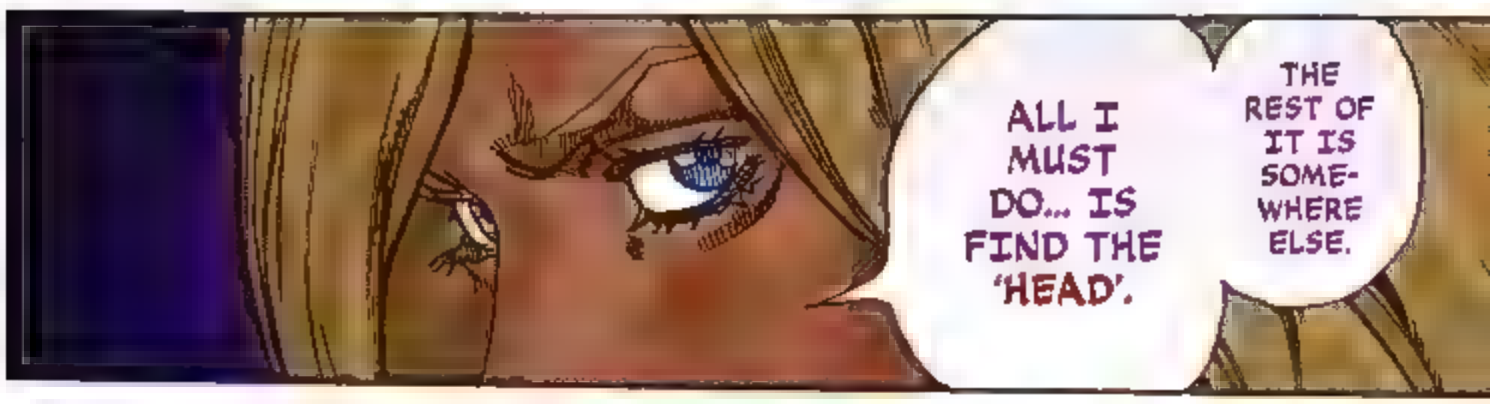
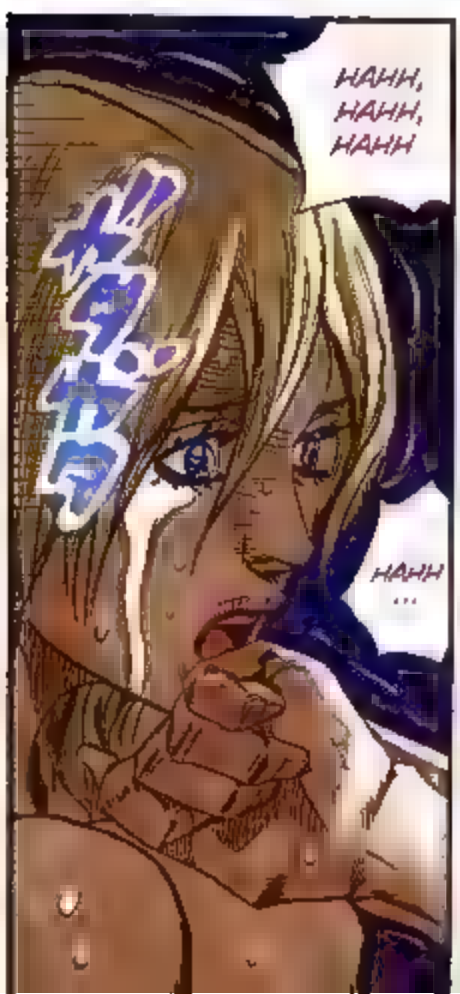
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH

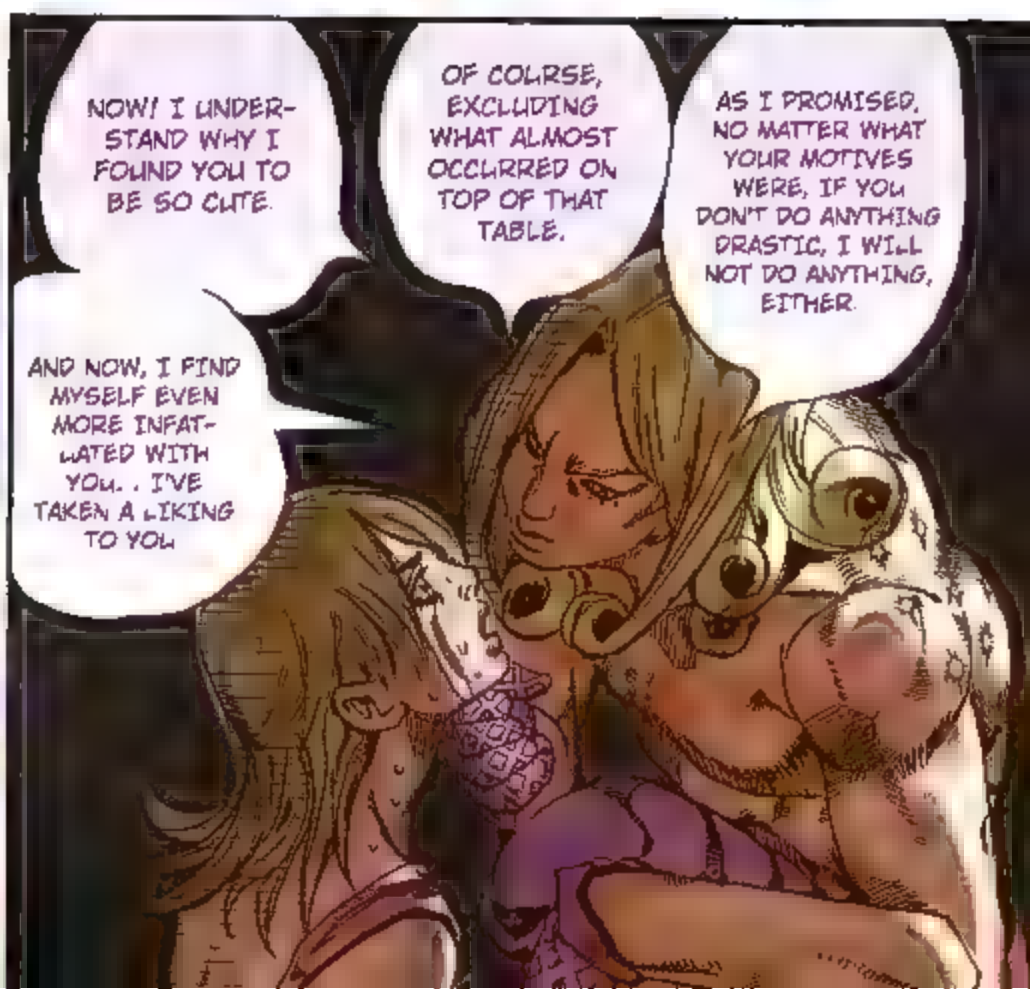

HAHH!
HAHH HAHH HAHH HAHH HAHH.
HAHH
HAHH! HAHH!
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAA
HAA
HAHH!

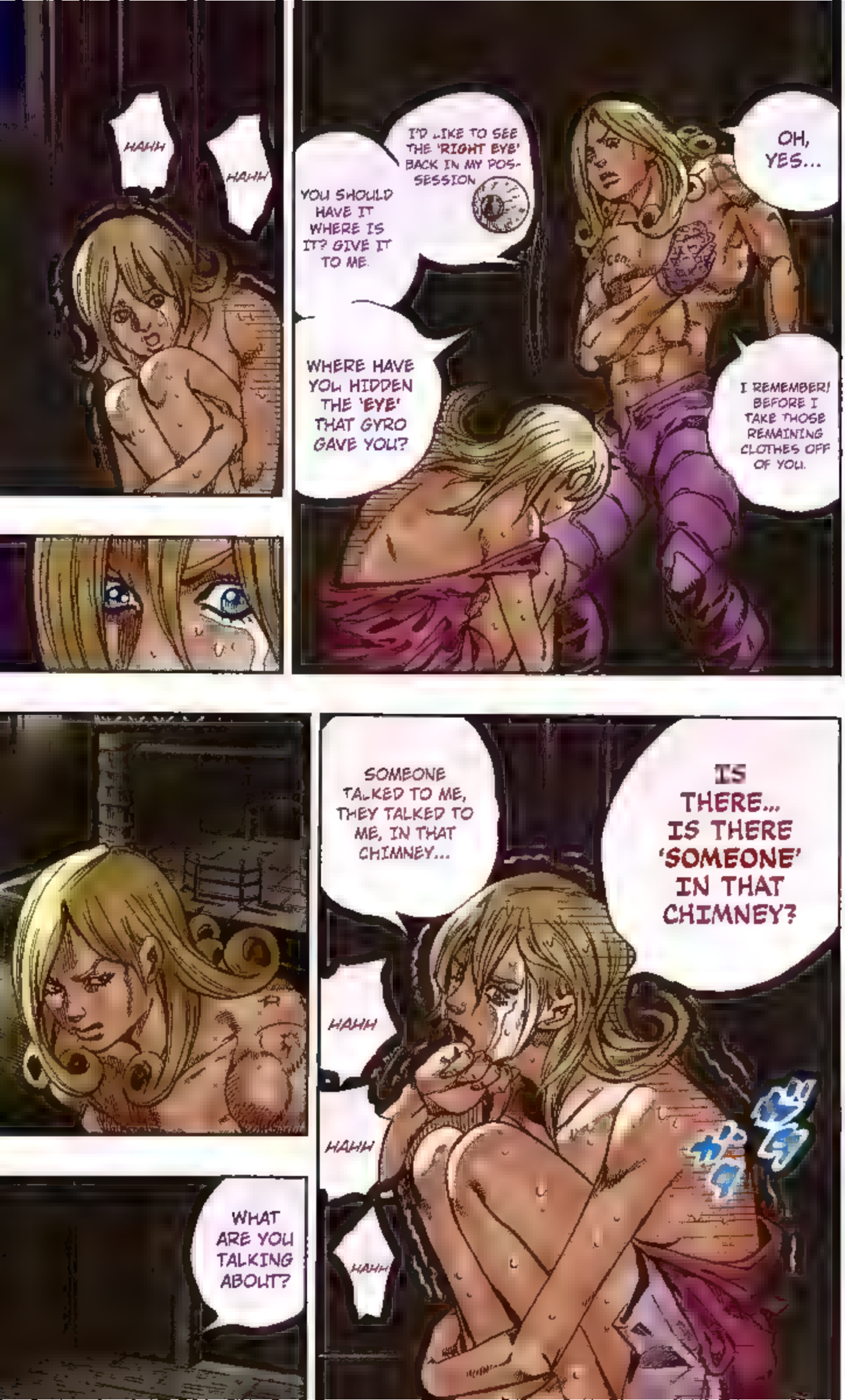
GLANCE


DID YOU SEE IT?
DID YOU SEE 'HIM' IN THE FIRE-PLACE?
I HID HIM IN THE CHIMNEY ...
HIS 'CORPSE'.
YOU KNEW ABOUT HIM, AND THERE-FORE DECIDED TO INFILTRATE THIS BUILDING TO OBTAIN THE CORPSE...


ALL I MUST DO... IS FIND THE 'HEAD'.
THE REST OF IT IS SOME-WHERE ELSE.


HAHH, HAHH, HAHH
HAHH ...


NOW! I UNDER-STAND WHY I FOUND YOU TO BE SO CUTE.
OF COURSE, EXCLUDING WHAT ALMOST OCCURRED ON TOP OF THAT TABLE.
AS I PROMISED, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR MOTIVES WERE, IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING DRASTIC, I WILL NOT DO ANYTHING, EITHER.
AND NOW, I FIND MYSELF EVEN MORE INFAT-UATED WITH YOU. . I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU


HAHH
HAHH
I'D LIKE TO SEE THE 'RIGHT EYE' BACK IN MY POSSESSION
YOU SHOULD HAVE IT WHERE IS IT? GIVE IT TO ME.
OH, YES...
WHERE HAVE YOU HIDDEN THE 'EYE' THAT GYRO GAVE YOU?
I REMEMBER! BEFORE I TAKE THOSE REMAINING CLOTHES OFF OF YOU.
SOMEONE TALKED TO ME, THEY TALKED TO ME, IN THAT CHIMNEY...
IS THERE... IS THERE 'SOMEONE' IN THAT CHIMNEY?
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

HE SAID THAT I WOULD 'BEAR' IT...
NOT BY YOU... NOT BY YOU, PRESIDENT... IT TOLD ME THAT THIS WAS INEVITABLE...
I WAS COVERED IN LIGHT AND IT 'TALKED'.
THE 'LIGHT' TALKED...
WHERE IS IT!? GIVE IT TO ME!
I WAS SUR-ROUNDED BY LIGHT IN THAT CHIMNEY!
GIVE ME THE 'EYE' RIGHT NOW!
LUCY STEEL! I'M TALKING ABOUT THE 'EYE'! WHERE HAVE YOU HIDDEN IT!?

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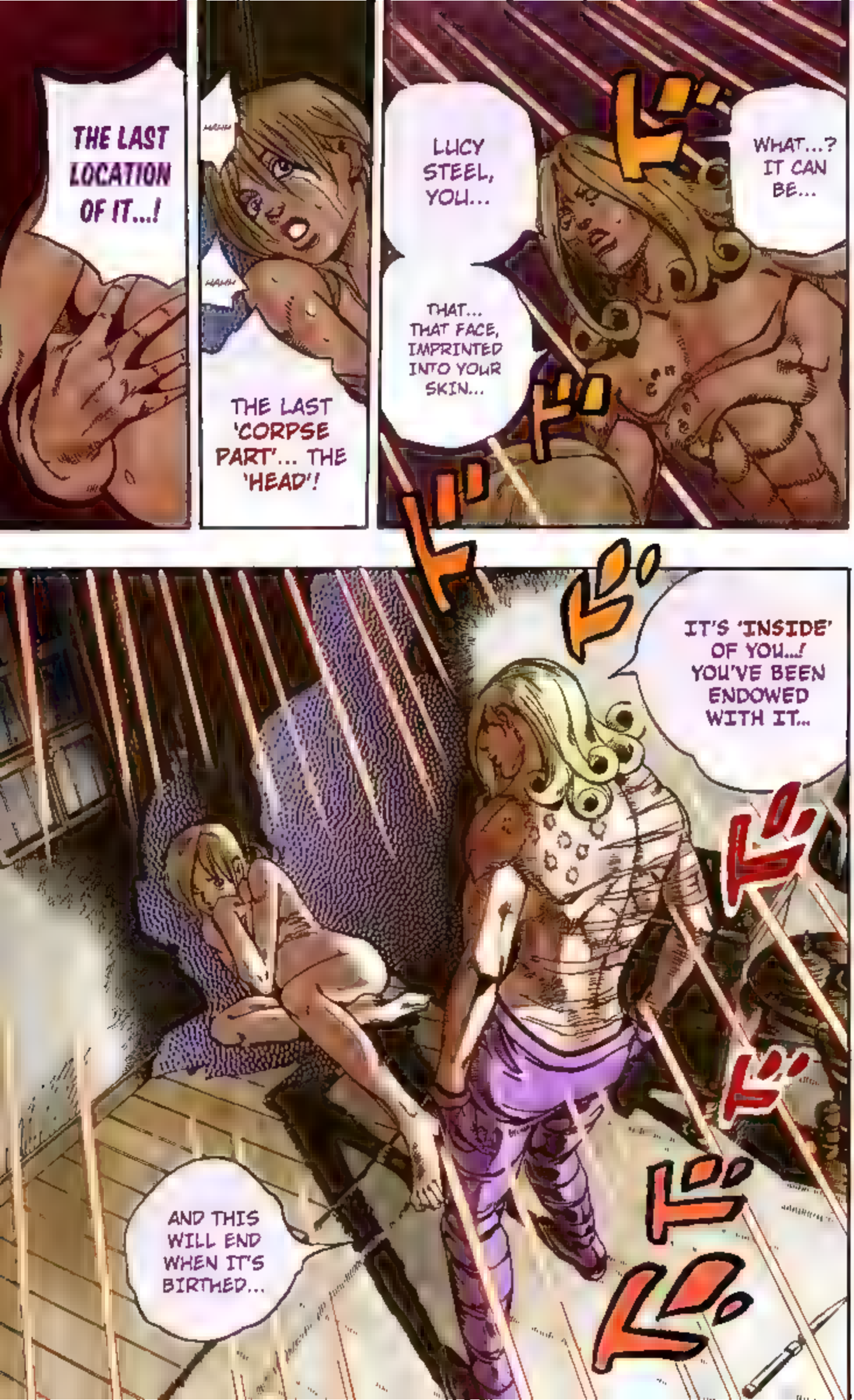
THE LAST LOCATION OF IT...!
THE LAST 'CORPSE PART'... THE 'HEAD'!
LUCY STEEL, YOU...
THAT... THAT FACE, IMPRINTED INTO YOUR SKIN...
WHAT...? IT CAN BE...
IT'S 'INSIDE' OF YOU...! YOU'VE BEEN ENDOWED WITH IT...
AND THIS WILL END WHEN IT'S BIRTHED...

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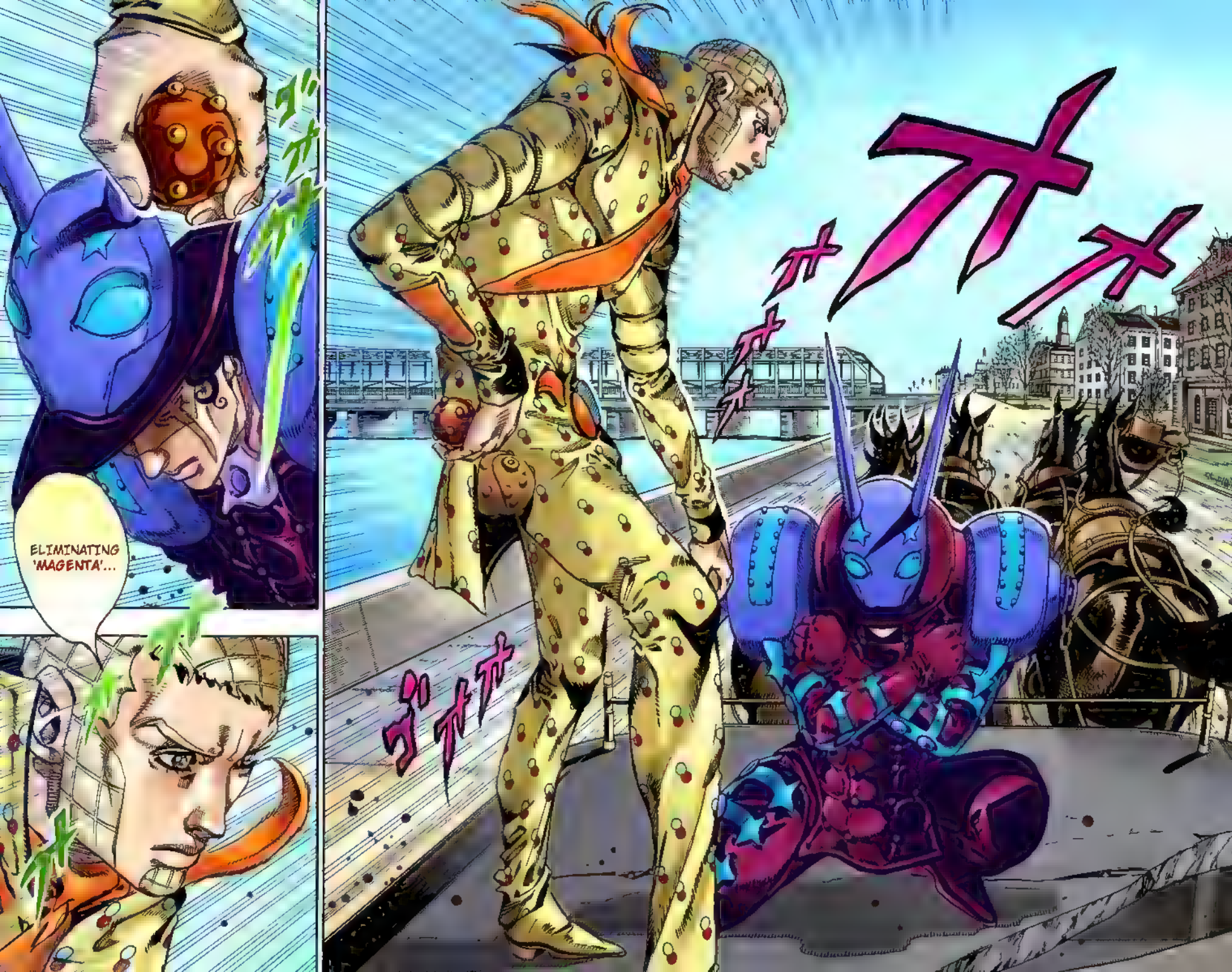
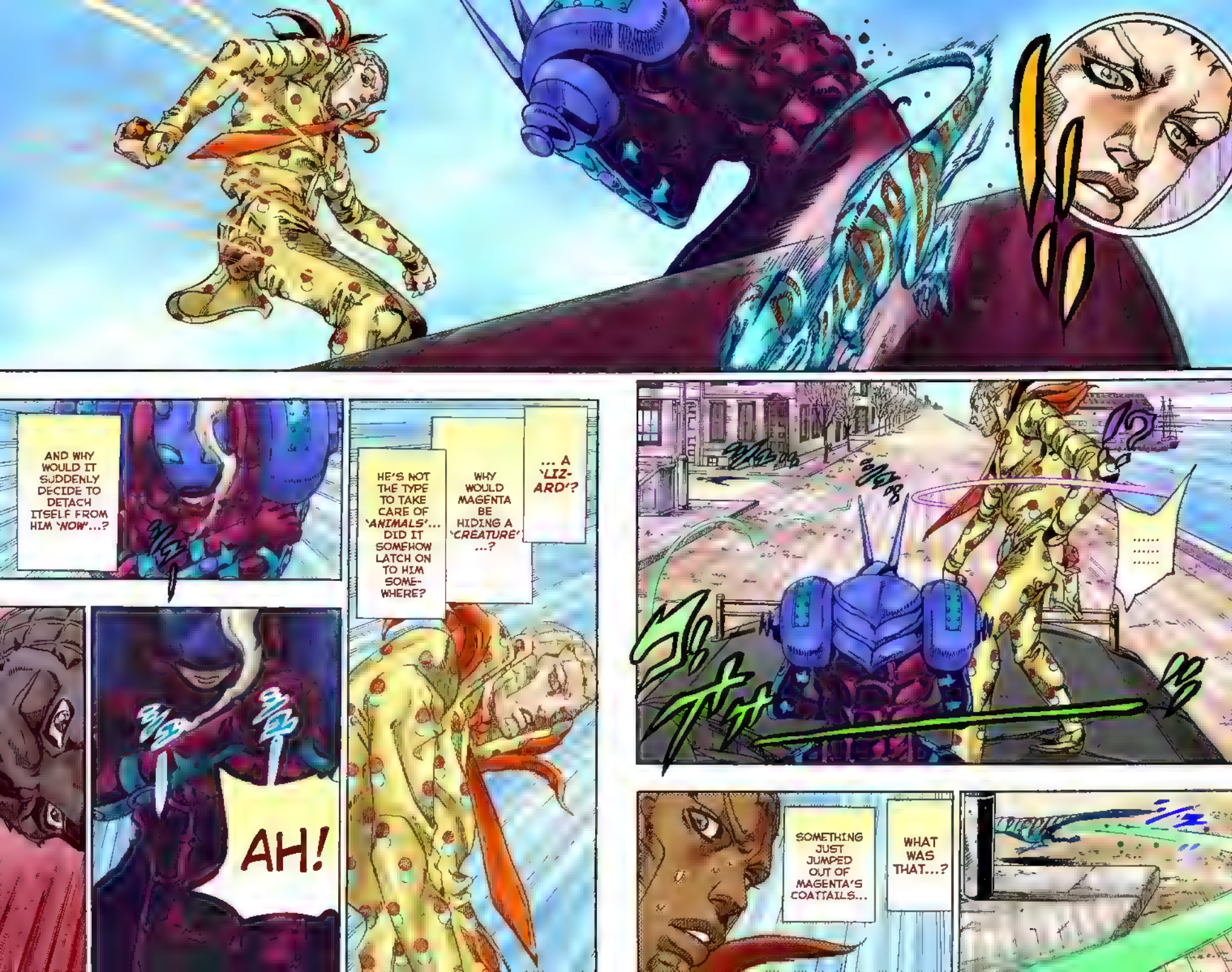

ELIMINATING 'MAGENTA'...

THE PROBLEM IS 'LUCY STEEL' ...
IF SHE IS CURRENTLY DISGUISED AS THE 'FIRST LADY', IN THAT BUILDING...
IF THIS IS ALL TRUE...
WHEN CONSIDERED IN ANOTHER LIGHT,
IF LUCY IS ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY DECIEVE THE PRESIDENT...
THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT I CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS.
THAT CAN ONLY BE DONE WHEN HE 'DEACTIVATES HIS OWN STAND'.

MR. STEEL!
CAN YOU HEAR ME? THERE WILL BE A BIT OF A SCUFFLE, SO BRACE YOURSELF!
I GUARANTEE THAT I WILL HELP YOU!
THE CHANCES OF GYRO OBTAINING THE 'CORPSE' INCREASES SIGNIFICANTLY...
HOWEVER! MY MAIN OBJECTIVE AND PRIORITY IS TO PROTECT LUCY
... I MUST GO AND SAVE HER AT ONCE...! HER 'IDENTITY' IS ALREADY BECOMING REVEALED!
IN ANY EVENT, 'MAGENTA' KNOWS ABOUT THIS...
WOO!
WHOOSH


AND WHY WOULD IT SUDDENLY DECIDE TO DETACH ITSELF FROM HIM *NOW*...?
HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO TAKE CARE OF *'ANIMALS'*... DID IT SOMEHOW LATCH ON TO HIM SOME-WHERE?
WHY WOULD MAGENTA BE HIDING A *'CREATURE'* ...?
... A *'LIZ-ARD'*?
AH!
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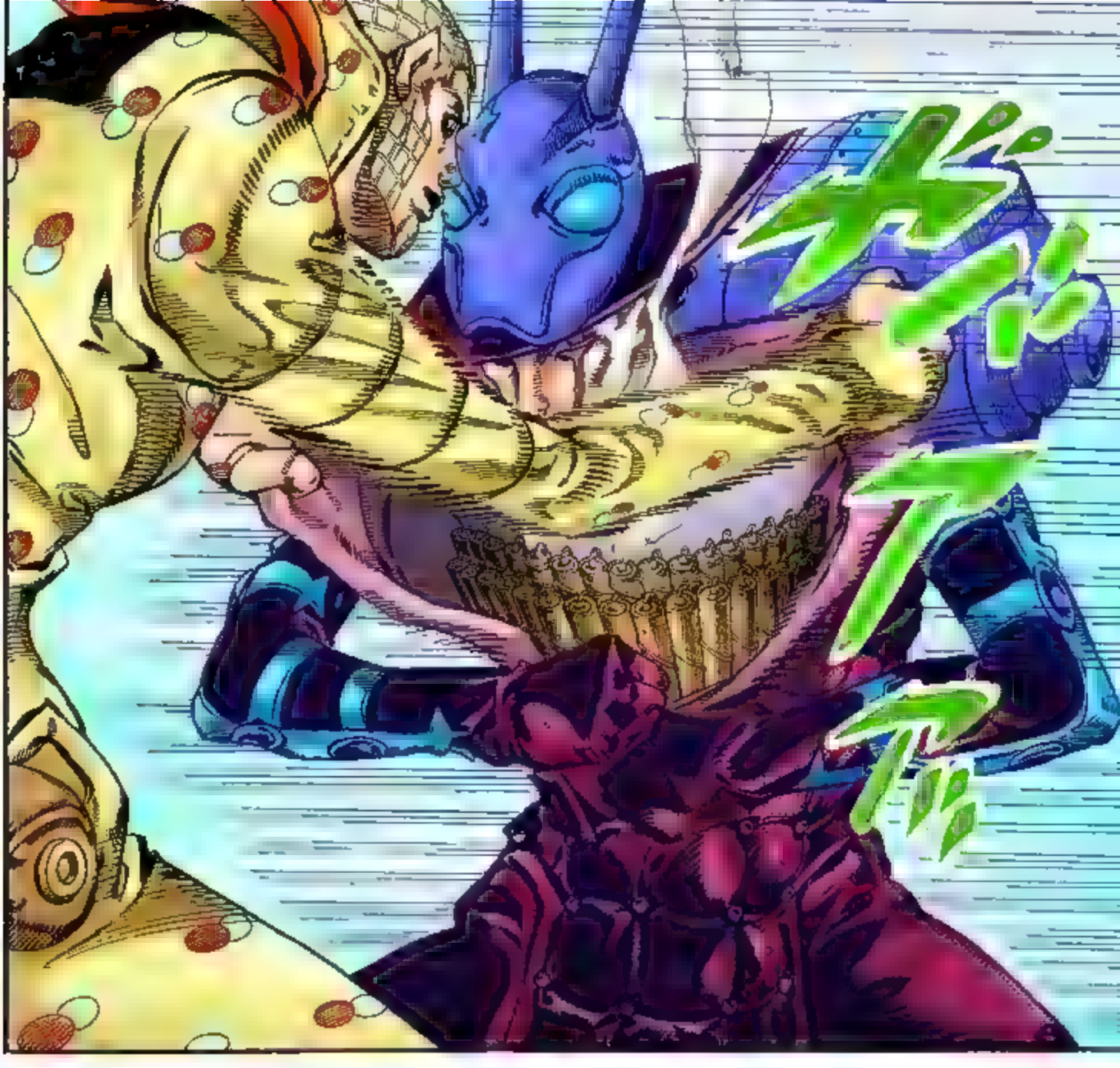
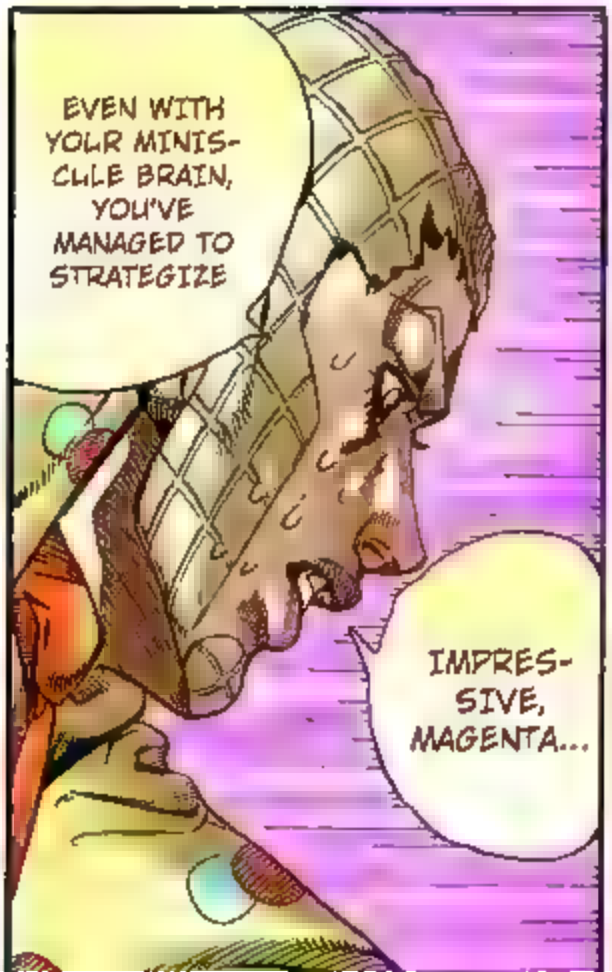
.....
.....
SOMETHING JUST JUMPED OUT OF MAGENTA'S COATTAILS...
WHAT WAS THAT...?




EVEN WITH YOUR MINISCULE BRAIN, YOU'VE MANAGED TO STRATEGIZE
IMPRESSIVE, MAGENTA...

HE MUST HAVE 'LIT' IT BEFORE HE ACTIVATED HIS STAND...
... 'DYNAMITE'. DAMN IT ALL...
MR. STEEL, YOU ARE GOING TO FEEL A BIT OF A SHOCK! BEAR WITH IT!
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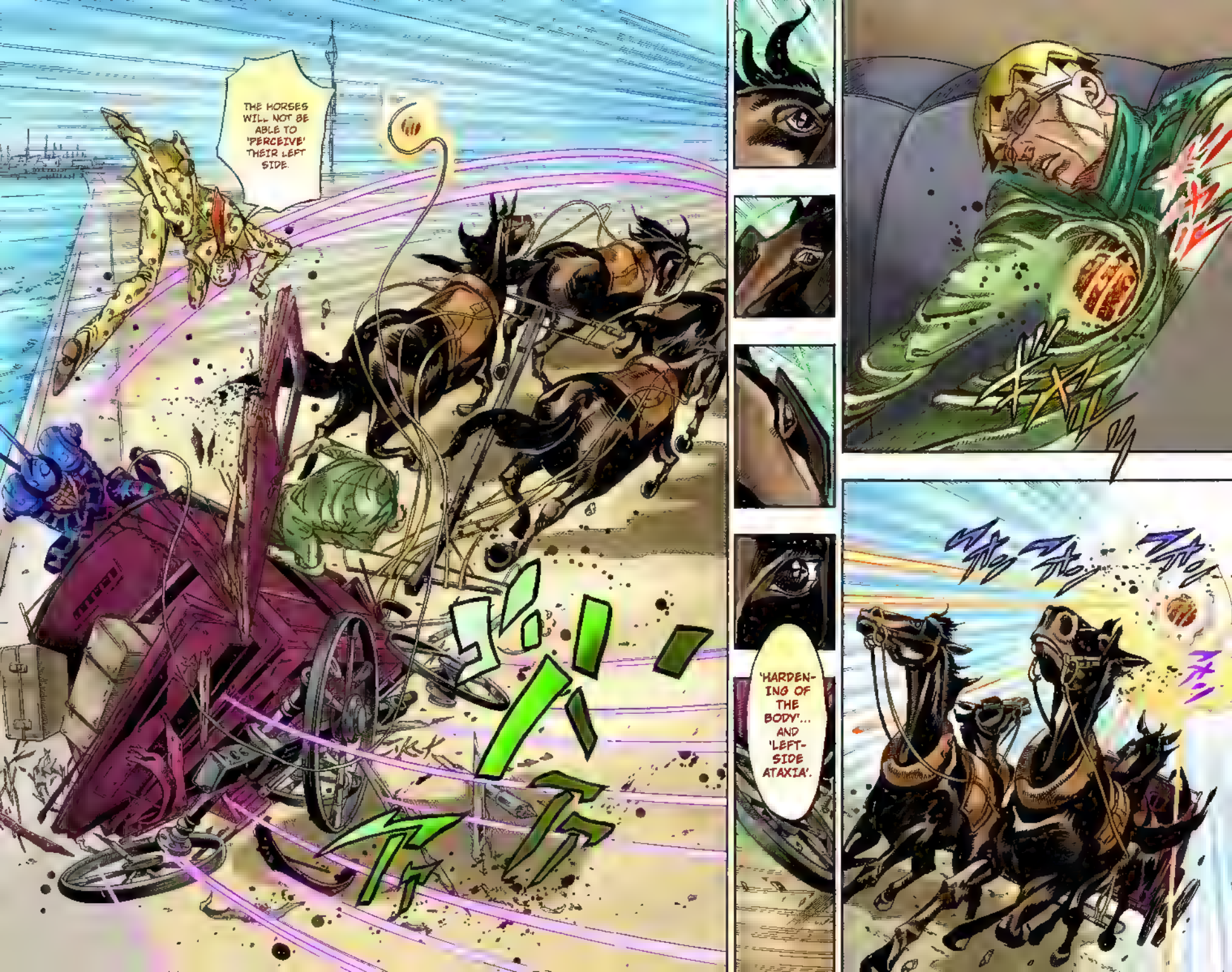
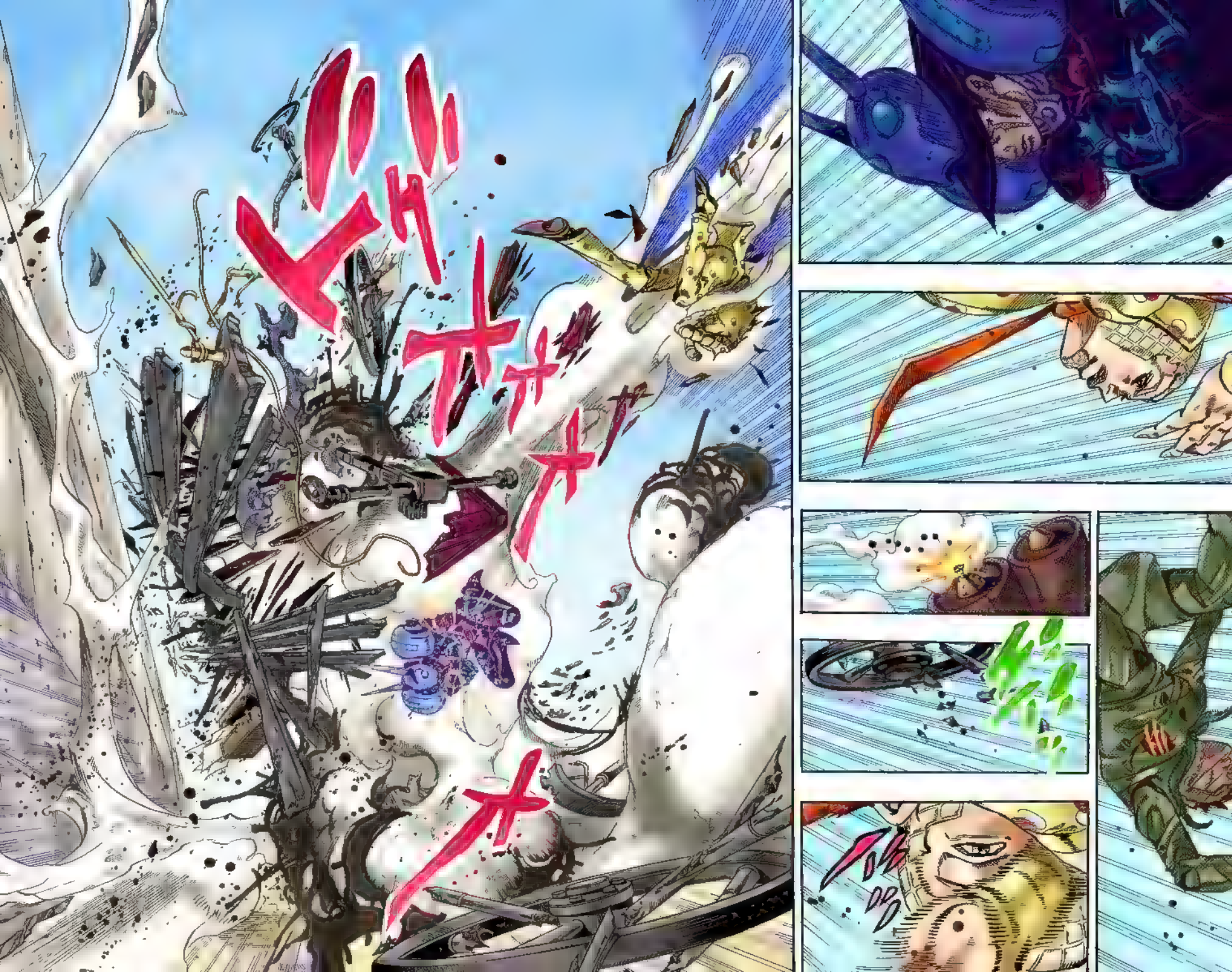

THE HORSES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO 'PERCEIVE' THEIR LEFT SIDE.
'HARDENING OF THE BODY'... AND 'LEFT-SIDE ATAXIA'.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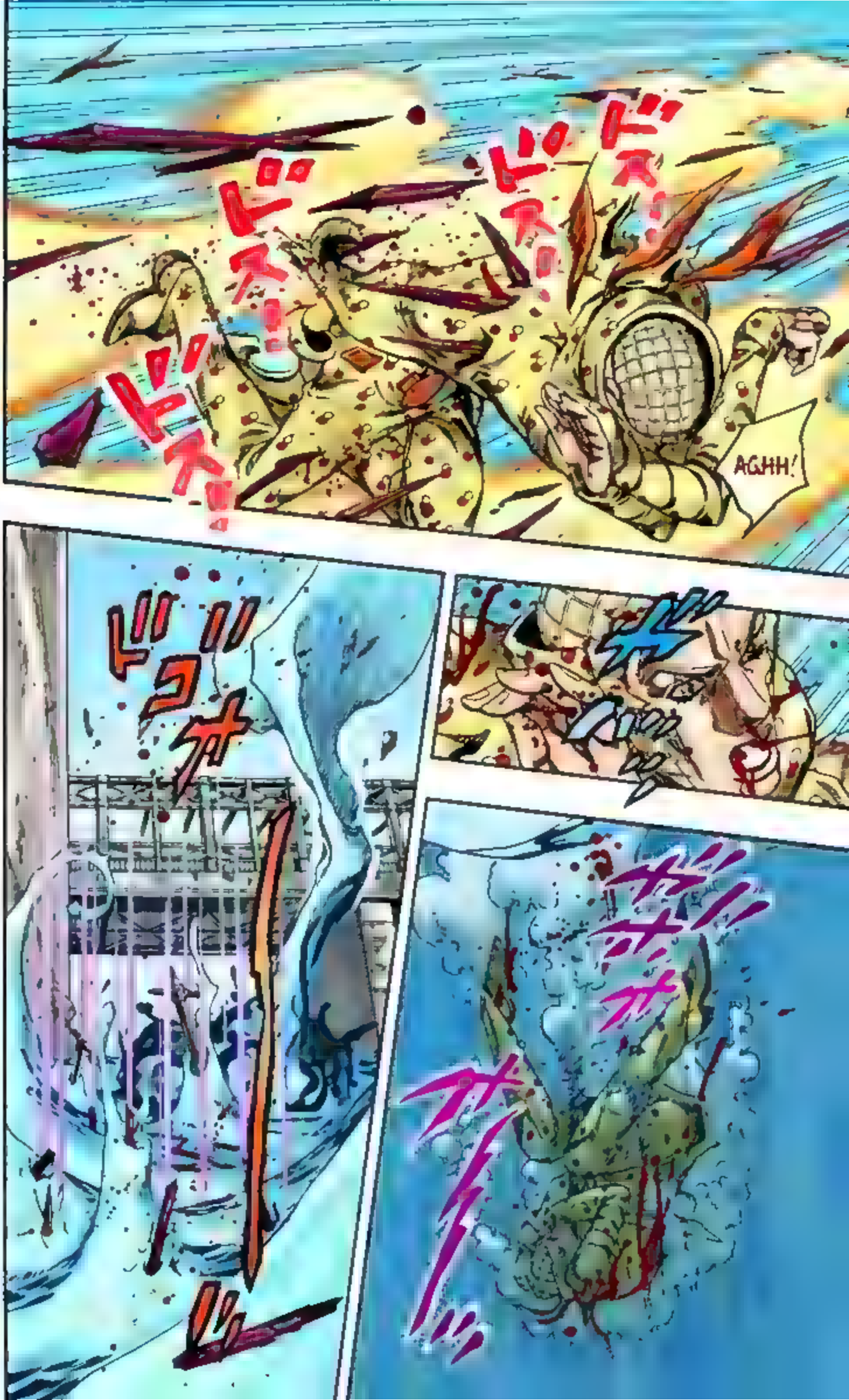
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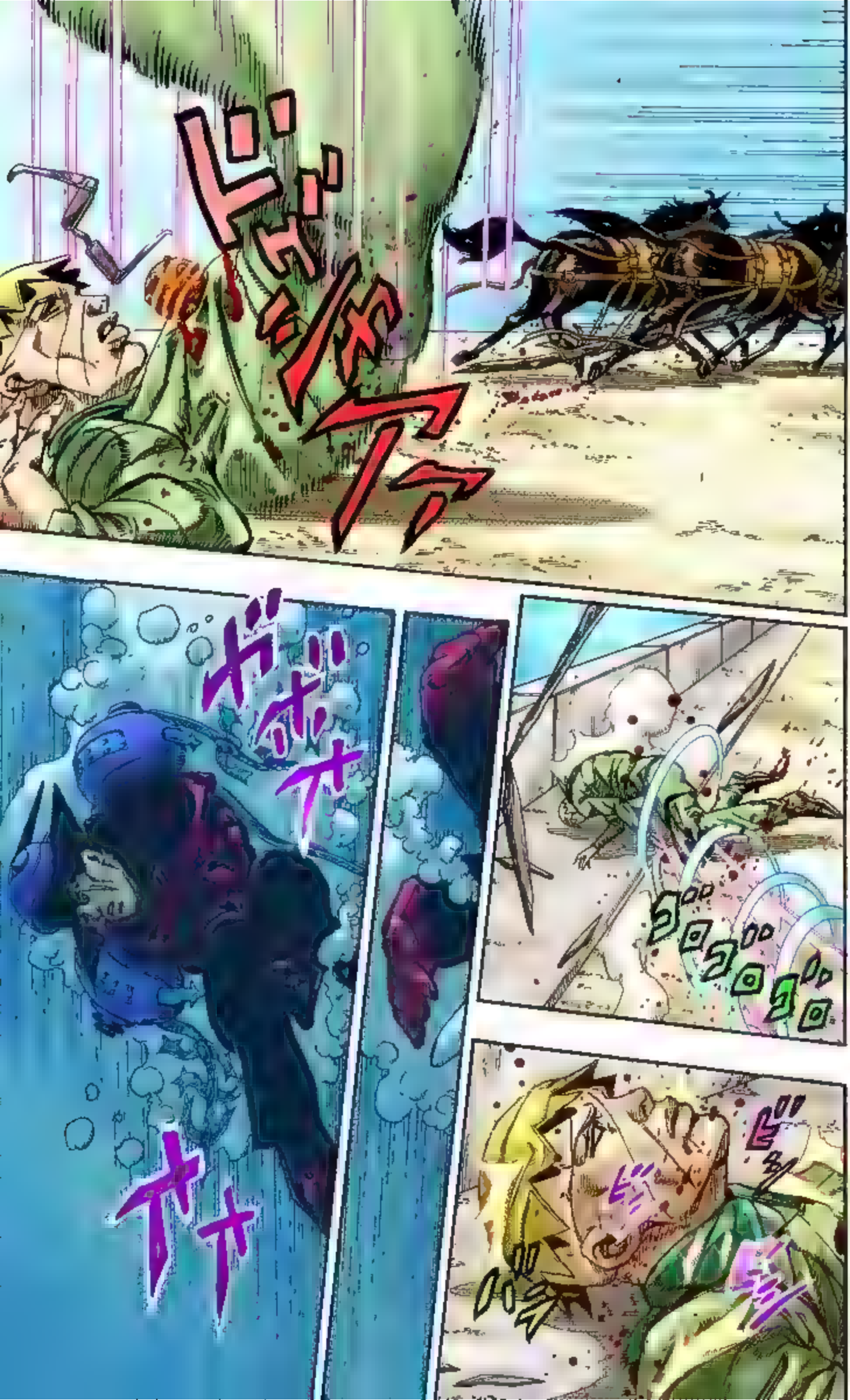
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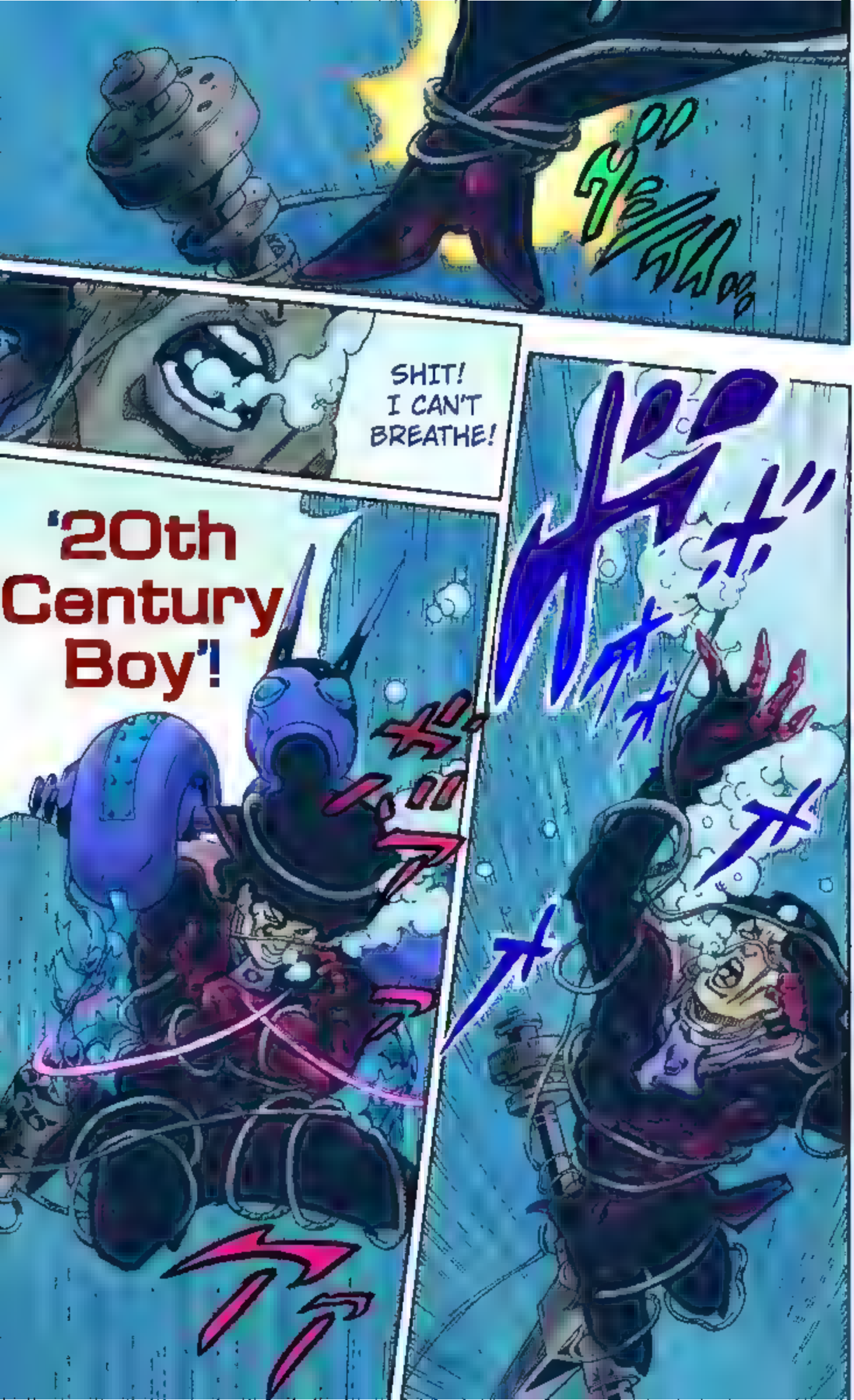
SNAP
UGH...
DON'T FUCK WITH ME, HUH!?
MR. WEKAPIPOO-OOOO.
FROM THE FIRST TIME WE MET, YOU'VE LOOKED DOWN ON ME, MADE ME LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT.
AND TO THINK, I KINDA LIKED YOU FOR A BIT, YOU KNOW?!
GUH'
GUH...
!!!

UGH...
GAAH!
FIRST, I'M GONNA RIP OUT ONE OF YOUR EYES, LIKE WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.
ONCE I DECIDE TO 'TAKE REVENGE', I ALWAYS 'TAKE REVENGE'
I MISSED MY SHOT JUST NOW, THOUGH, BY TWO CENTI-METERS TO THE LEFT!

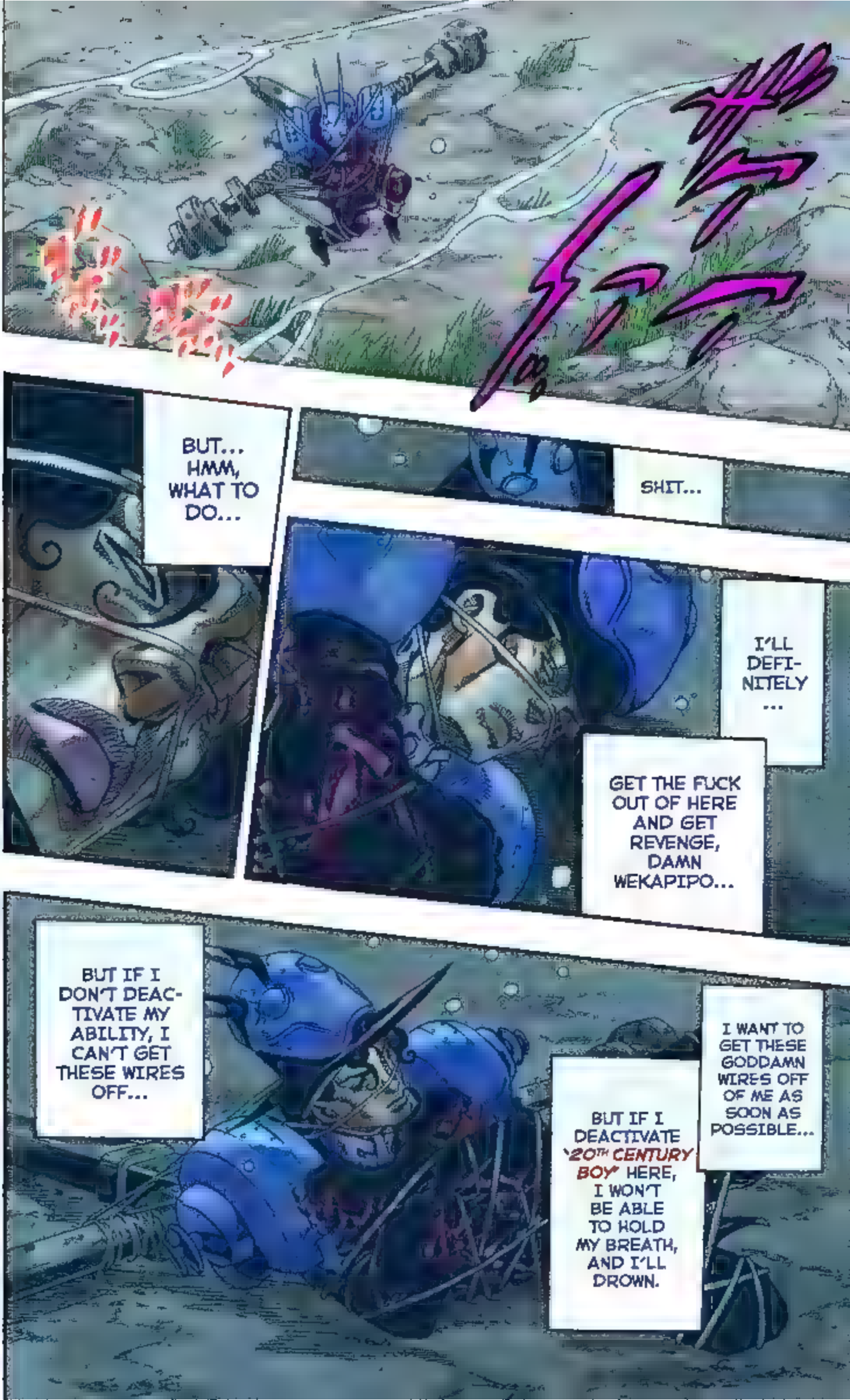
LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO TEACH YOU THAT PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE ANYTHIN' TO LOSE ARE THE SCARIEST TYPES, MR. SMARTASS!
THAT'S FOR TREATING PEOPLE LIKE ME LIKE SHIT!
!!

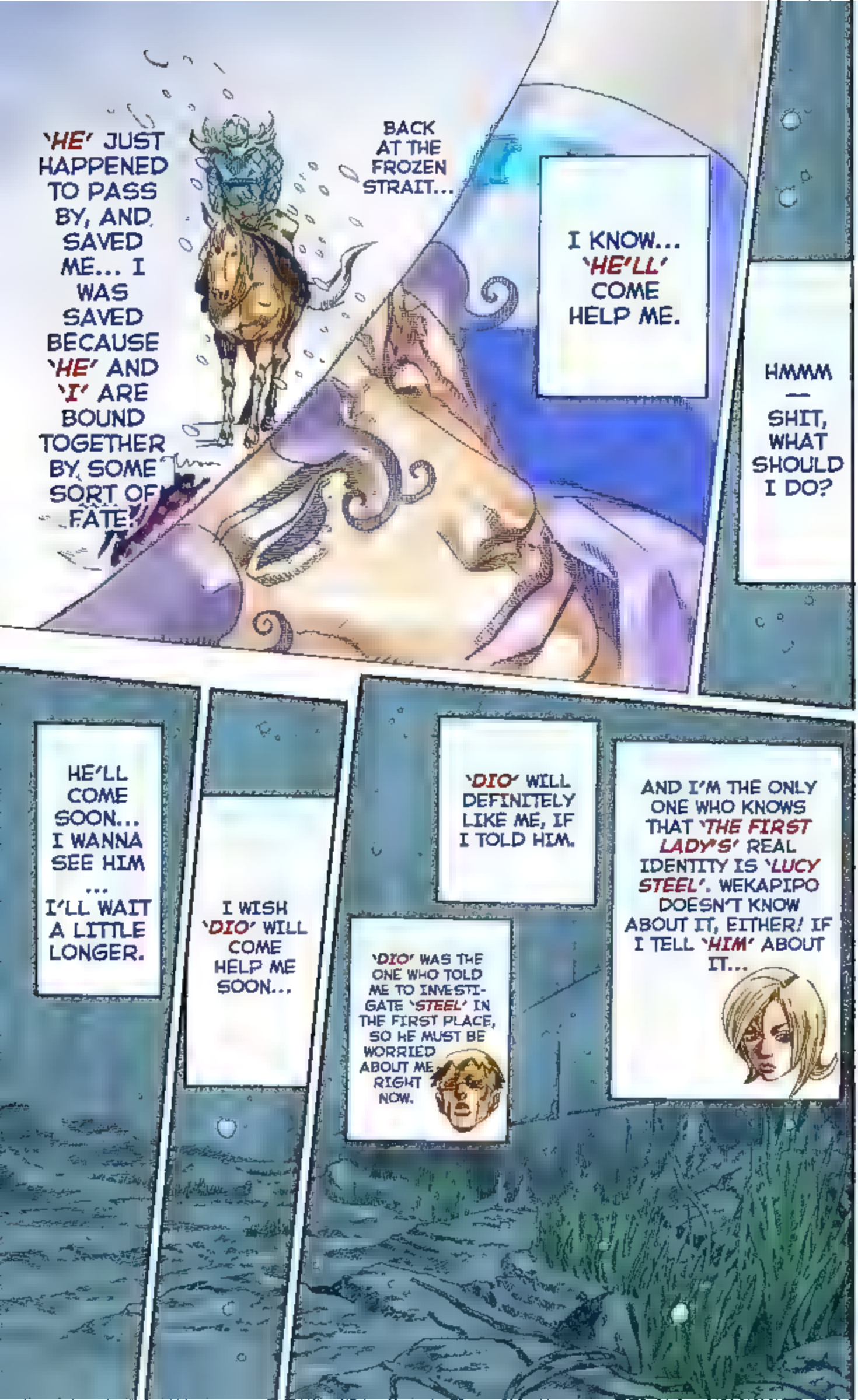
AGH!
WHA ...?!
!!
WHAT ?!
THE TIRE AXLE FROM THE CARRIAGE ...AND THESE WIRES...
WHAT ?!
THAT'S... WEKAPIPO'S 'STEEL BALL'! THE ONE THAT HE THREW AT THE HORSES!


SHIT! I CAN'T BREATHE!
'20th Century Boy'!

YOU TRULY FRIGHTENED ME WITH YOUR STRATEGY OF 'EXPLOSIVES', MAGENTA...
I BELIEVE I INFORMED YOU OF THIS BACK AT THE FROZEN STRAIT...
BUT AS ALWAYS, YOU MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF.
TO HUMBLE YOURSELF AND 'DEAL THE FINISHING BLOW QUICKLY'.

A PITY, EVEN IN THE WATER, WHERE YOU CAN'T BREATHE...
ONCE YOU TAKE YOUR DEFENSIVE STANCE, THERE IS NOT A SINGLE SOUL WHO COULD DEFEAT YOU...
NO, IT CAN'T BE, THAT WAS...!
THAT WOULD MEAN THAT DIO HAS NOW HEARD ABOUT LUCY!
IT WAS NOT A LIZARD!
WAIT...
THAT WAS... THAT 'CREATURE' THAT JUMPED OUT OF MAGENTA'S COATTAILS...
.... THOUGH IT WAS SMALL...
WAS IT NOT A 'DINOSAUR' ...?!


BUT... HMM, WHAT TO DO...
SHIT...
I'LL DEFI-NITELY ...
GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE AND GET REVENGE, DAMN WEKAPIPO...
BUT IF I DON'T DEAC-TIVATE MY ABILITY, I CAN'T GET THESE WIRES OFF...
BUT IF I DEACTIVATE '20TH CENTURY BOY' HERE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD MY BREATH, AND I'LL DROWN.
I WANT TO GET THESE GODDAMN WIRES OFF OF ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...


'HE' JUST HAPPENED TO PASS BY, AND SAVED ME... I WAS SAVED BECAUSE 'HE' AND 'I' ARE BOUND TOGETHER BY SOME SORT OF FATE!
BACK AT THE FROZEN STRAIT...
I KNOW... 'HE'LL' COME HELP ME.
HMMM — SHIT, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HE'LL COME SOON... I WANNA SEE HIM ... I'LL WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.
I WISH 'DIO' WILL COME HELP ME SOON...
'DIO' WILL DEFINITELY LIKE ME, IF I TOLD HIM.
'DIO' WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO INVESTIGATE 'STEEL' IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO HE MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT ME RIGHT NOW.
AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THAT 'THE FIRST LADY'S' REAL IDENTITY IS 'LUCY STEEL'. WEKAPIPO DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT, EITHER! IF I TELL 'HIM' ABOUT IT...

ドドド

THE WATER OF THE DELAWARE RIVER KEPT UP ITS CONSTANT RHYTHM AS IT FLOWED PAST THE RIVER BOTTOM... AND AS TIME PASSED, 'MAGENTA MAGENTA'...
STOPPED WAITING.
AND STOPPED THINKING.
New York
Manhattan
Philadelphia
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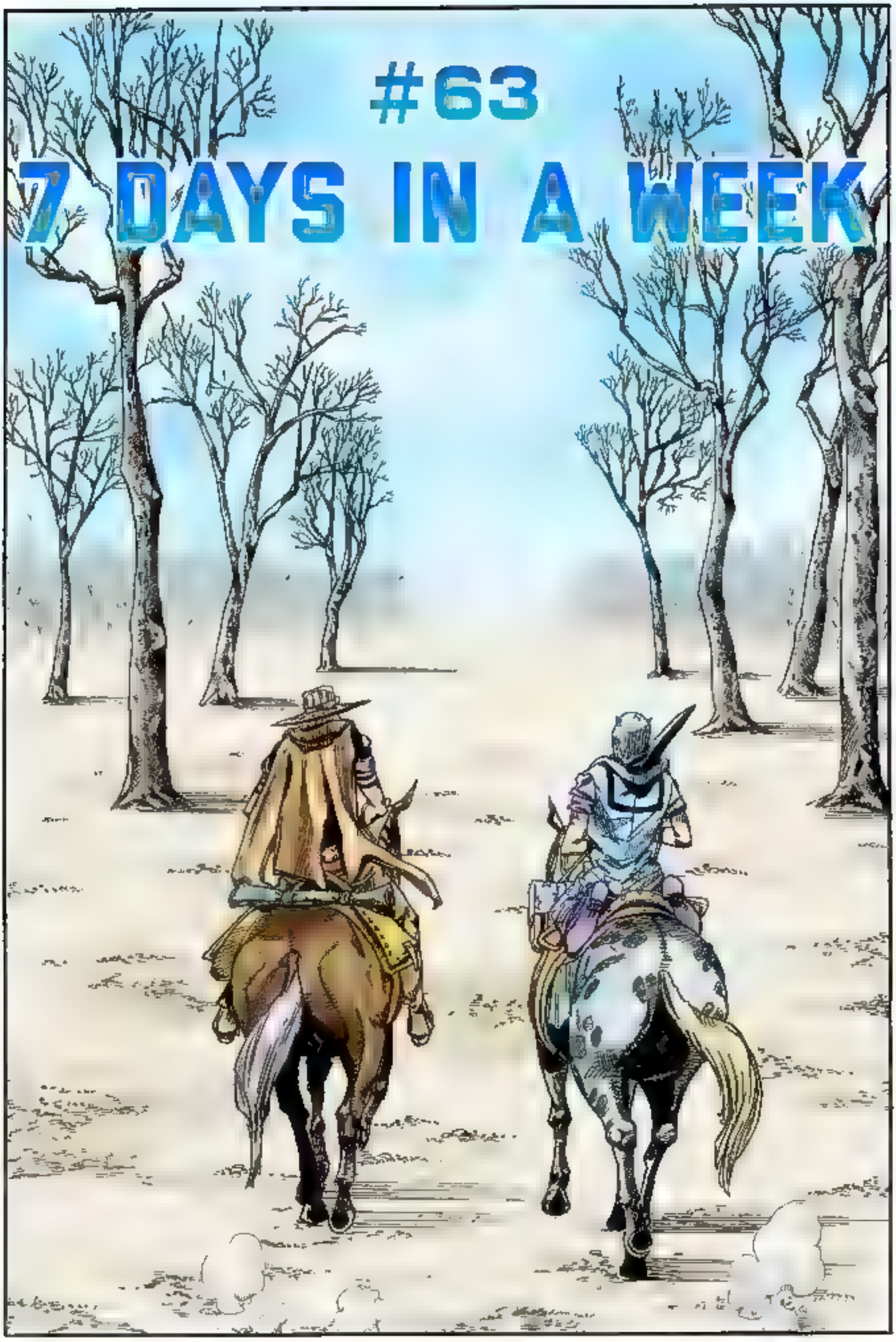
ドドド
ドドド
ドドド


#63
7 DAYS IN A WEEK

SO, JOHNNY.

I KNOW THIS IS GONNA SOUND LIKE A RIPOFF OF SOMETHING ELSE...

BUT I JUST CAME UP WITH A 'GAG'.

.....

.....

.....

THE TITLE IS "THIS IS HOW I SPEND MY WEEK"...

BUT,

I'M GONNA SAY THE 'DAYS OF THE WEEK' IN ITALIAN, STARTING FROM 'MONDAY' ALL THE WAY TO 'SUNDAY'.

I'M GONNA TURN STUPID ON 'WEDNESDAY', AND THEN MAKE SOME ESPRESSO ON 'THURSDAY'.

'SUNDAY' IS A DAY OF REST.

ALL RIGHT, HERE I GO.

ON 'FRIDAY' I'LL MIX IN THE SUGAR, AND ON 'SATURDAY' I'LL DRINK IT.

'MARTEDI', TUESDAY! 'M-A-R-T-E-D-I'!

Answer: Martedi

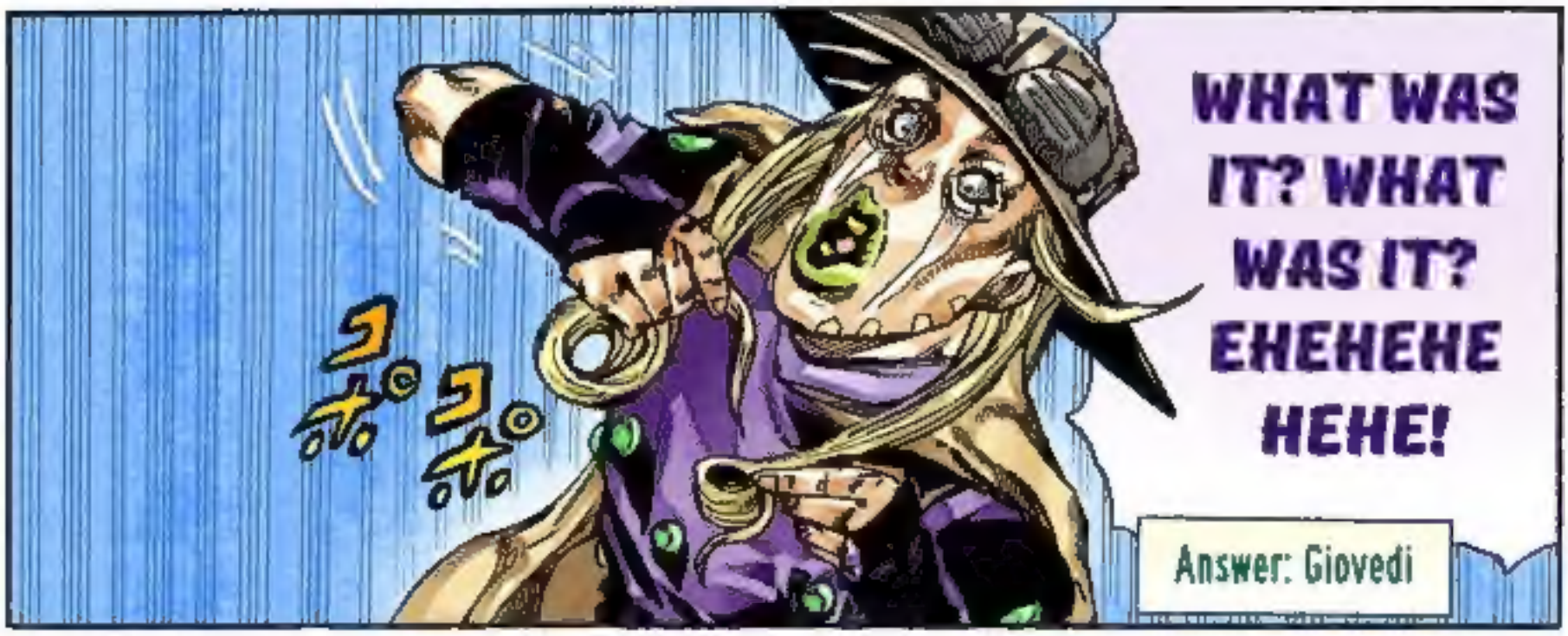
'LUNEDI', MONDAY! 'L-U-N-E-D-I'!

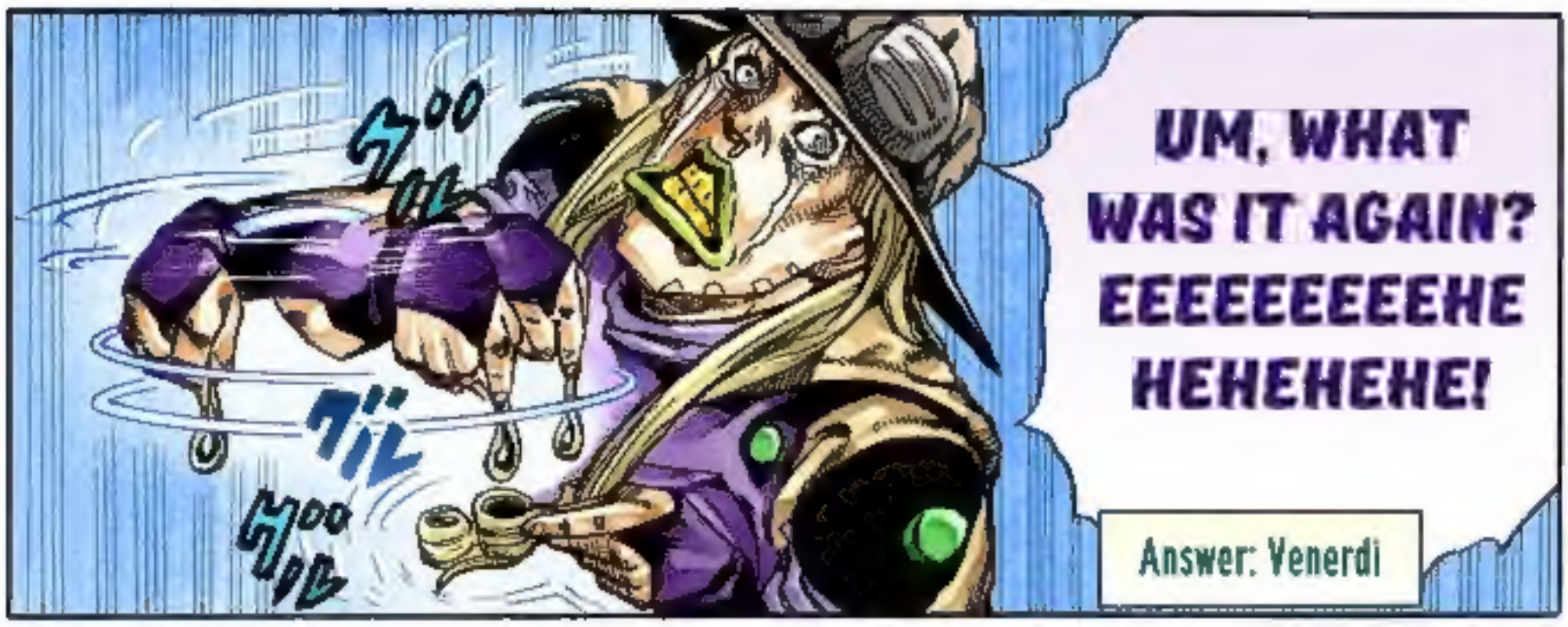
Answer: Lunedi

'ME...'

WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?! I FORGOT! AHAHAHAH AHAHA!

Answer: Mercoledi


WHAT WAS IT? WHAT WAS IT? EHEHEHE HEHE!
Answer: Giovedi


UM, WHAT WAS IT AGAIN? EEEEEEEEEEHE HEHEHEHE!
Answer: Venerdi

'DOMENICA', SUNDAY.
Answer: Domenica

AAAHA HAHA HAHA HA!
I COMPLETELY FORGOT!
Answer: Sabato

.....
.....
.....

RIGHT?!

IT SEEMED LIKE A REALLY HAPPY WEEK... LIKE, YOU STARTED TO LOSE TRACK OF TIME!

VEEEERY GOOOOD!

AWESOME! IT WAS TOTALLY COOL.

ONCE YOU FINISH WRITING IT DOWN, WE'LL HEAD ON OUR WAY.

DIGITAL
SHUEISHA JUMP COMICS

デジタルカラー版

ジョジョの奇妙な冒険

PART7 STEEL BALL RUN

16巻

荒木飛呂彦
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